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HUNGARY

ITS PEOPLE, PLACES, AND POLITICS



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FRANCIS KOSSUTH.

(Royal Hungarian Minister of Commerce.)

Frontispiece.

HUNGARY

ITS PEOPLE, PLACES, AND POLITICS

THE VISIT OF THE
EIGHTY CLUB IN 1906

WITH SIXTY ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON: T. FISHER UNWIN
ADELPHI TERRACE · MCMVII

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Preface

THE primary object of this book is to make a definite and authentic record of the visit of a deputation from the Eighty Club to Hungary in 1906. The members of the deputation expressed a strong desire that such a record should be made, and the book has been compiled in the hope that it will interest many other members of the Club and the Hungarian friends who have already expressed a sympathetic wish to see it.

English books about Hungary are not sufficiently numerous to make an apology necessary for publishing another which is written, at any rate, from personal observation, and describes the natural and social features of the country from an unusual standpoint.

The illustrations, like the letter-press, come from various sources, and those responsible for the publication desire to thank more especially

Hungary

the Royal Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Emil Samarjay, of Pozsony, Mr. Golonya, editor of the fortnightly paper *Hungary*, published in English in Budapest, and Mr. Coloman Gálos, General Secretary of the Central Booking Office of the Royal Hungarian State Railways, for materials kindly furnished by them.

One more remark seems needed. Should the tone of these pages seem to any reader too lavish of gratitude for Hungarian hospitality, it must be understood that the vivid impressions made on those who shared in this visit were such that no record of the proceedings could be truthful without reflecting the strong cordial feelings which, experienced then, are here expressed again.

This book is issued by the members of the Deputation to Hungary with the sanction of the Club. But it must be understood that no responsibility is accepted by members of the Club for the views therein expressed.

R. C. HAWKIN,
Secretary.

February, 1907.

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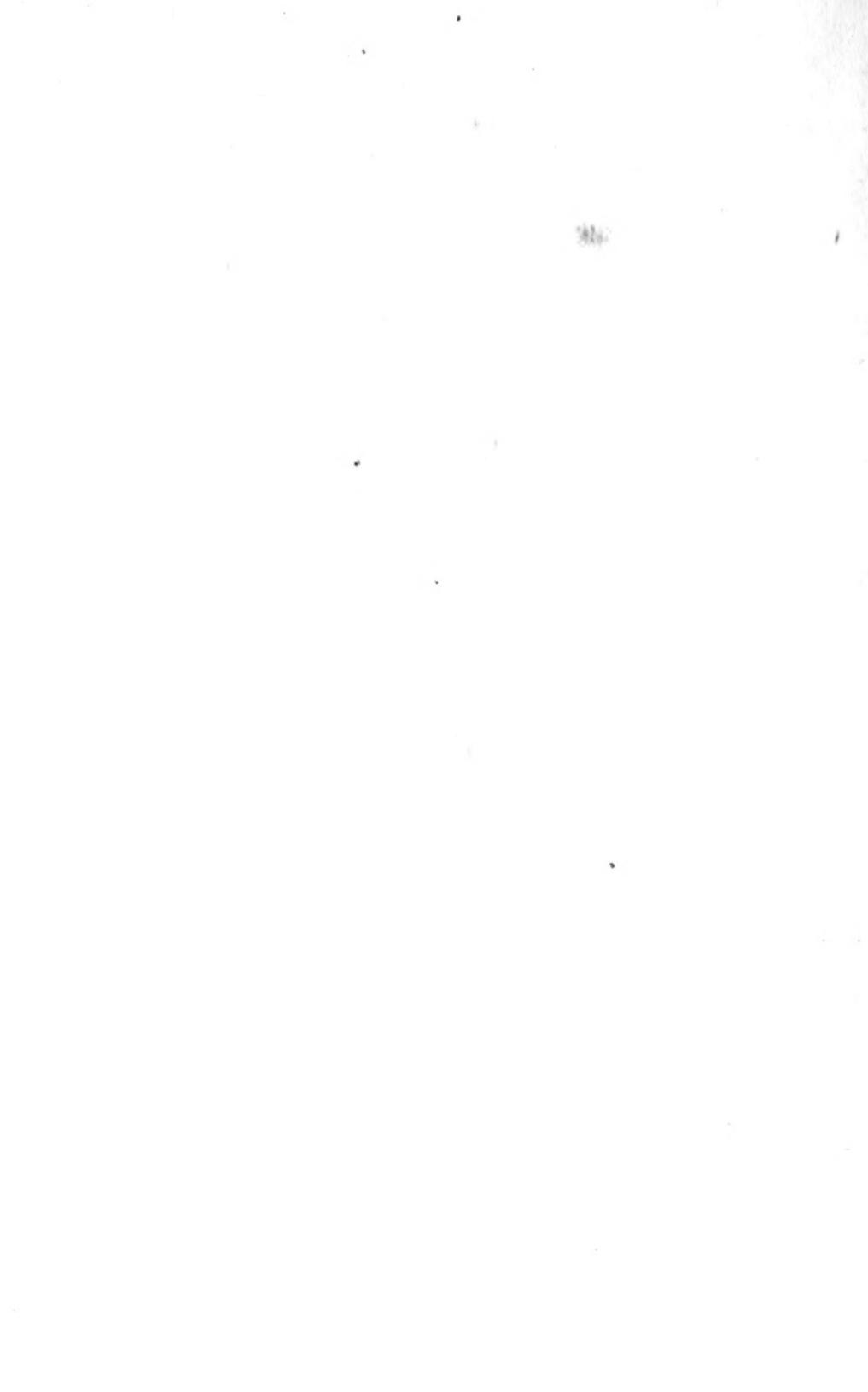
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CHAPTER I

THE EIGHTY CLUB AND THE INDEPENDENT CLUB OF HUNGARY

CHAPTER I

THE EIGHTY CLUB AND THE INDEPENDENT CLUB OF HUNGARY

IN the course of 1905 a suggestion was made that some Liberal politicians should form a party to visit Hungary. But the political conditions in both countries were for the moment unfavourable, and the idea could not immediately be carried out. In each country there was popular discontent with the Government in power, and a platform agitation was being carried on by the Liberals in England, and by the three parties in Hungary who were working together in opposition, and are the natural friends of English Liberals. A General Election was an almost weekly possibility in England. In Hungary a General Election had been held early in 1905, but another seemed possible, owing to the attitude of a Government which, in defiance of constitutional usage, was carrying on the administration without Parliamentary

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authority. A year later both countries had seen revolutionary changes. In January, 1906, the General Election in England had confirmed in office the Liberal Government formed a month before under the premiership of Sir Henry Campbell - Bannerman. The Eighty Club found itself in full sympathy with the Government of the day in England. Among its members were now 163 members of the new Parliament. Its activity as an agitating force was naturally relaxed as the country looked forward to the work of this new and vigorous Parliament in which the Government, as regards the House of Commons at least, commanded an immense majority.

In Hungary, too, the first four months of the year 1906 brought great changes. In March King Francis Joseph entrusted affairs to a new Government, formed with Dr. Wekerle as Premier, whose Cabinet consisted of a coalition of members of the three parties, the Independents, the Constitutional, and the People's (Clerical) parties. This was followed by an appeal to the country, and in April, 1906, a General Election took place, with the result that Dr. Wekerle's Government found itself with an overwhelming majority as it counted

[T. R. Bethell, M.P.

SOME OF OUR HUNGARIAN HOSTS.

(p. 21)

Photo by



The Eighty Club

among its adherents about 360 in a House of 443 members. There were returned as Deputies to the Hungarian Lower House 82 of the Constitutional party, to which Dr. Wekerle, the Premier, belongs; 246 Independents, the party of which Mr. Francis Kossuth and Count Albert Apponyi are the leaders; and 35 of the People's (Clerical) party, led by Count Aladár Zichy, who also is a member of Dr. Wekerle's Cabinet. Besides the opposition arrayed against the new Hungarian Ministry there were the 40 Croatian Delegates, sent by the Croatian Diet under the Hungarian Constitution. In the early days of the Parliament bye-elections and resignations augmented the numbers of Dr. Wekerle's majority by nearly 30 members.

In the summer of 1906 the suggestion of the previous year became an invitation. The Independent Club, occupying a place in Hungarian politics similar to that held by the Eighty Club in England, invited the Eighty Club to send a deputation of its members to Budapest.

The Hungarian Independent Club is, as its name implies, heir to the traditions and ideals of the great patriot, Louis Kossuth. Its Magyar title, "Országos Függetlenségi és Negyvennyolcas Pártkör" (National Independent

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dent and Forty-Eight Club), declares this. To the members of this body, no less than to those of the Eighty Club, the occasion seemed an auspicious one for meeting. A readiness was evident from the first on both sides to join in making the visit a success. The party of 1848 had again become dominant in Hungary; a future seemed before it, such as had not been dreamed of since Louis Kossuth was a Minister, more than fifty years ago. It seemed fitting that descendants of the English Liberals who had befriended the illustrious exile should now visit his grave and his country. The general feeling in Hungary, therefore, was that this was the favourable moment for the party which was led by the son of the great Kossuth to entertain in Hungary a delegation representing the liberal traditions of England.

The invitation was sent to the Eighty Club through Mr. William de Ruttkay, the representative in London of the Minister of Commerce, which office is held in the Hungarian Cabinet by Mr. Francis Kossuth, the titular leader of the Independent party. It was suggested that about thirty members, accompanied by ladies, should proceed to Budapest,

The Eighty Club

and that among other engagements two conferences should be held, one on Labour Legislation, the other on International Disarmament. The idea of a conference on the latter subject was dropped at an early stage, as the question of the increase of the Austro-Hungarian army came prominently before the public, and it was of course recognised by both sides that the visit of the Eighty Club should be an occasion for diplomatic restraint with regard to all the internal debateable controversies of the hour.

In July, 1906, the Inter-Parliamentary Conference met in London, and Count Albert Apponyi, who, as mentioned above, shares with Mr. Kossuth the leadership of the Independent party in Hungary, attended, accompanied by several Hungarian Deputies. Their visit, and especially the eloquence of Count Apponyi, who speaks with equal facility in English, French, German, and his native Magyar, and his support of the ideas expressed so lucidly by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, gave impetus and interest to the proposed visit.

The invitation was finally accepted, and the visit arranged to take place in the fourth week of September. The deputation was selected

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from the Committee of the Eighty Club and other members, whose special interests and opportunities gave reason for their being included in the deputation. At a preliminary meeting of the deputation, held early in August, the following members were elected as a committee to make the necessary arrangements : T. H. D. Berridge, M.P., Frank Newbolt, Henry Norman, M.P., Sir George Robertson, M.P., with R. C. Hawkin, secretary of the Club. Shortly before the deputation started, Sir George Robertson was obliged by illness to relinquish his intention of visiting Budapest, and his place on the committee was taken by Sir Charles McLaren, M.P.

The deputation consisted finally of the following members :—

J. E. ALLEN	W. M. CROOK
H. A. BAKER	Capt. F. P. FLETCHER-
T. H. D. BERRIDGE,	VANE
M.P.	W. B. FORSTER-BOVILL
T. R. BETHELL, M.P.	PERCY A. HARRIS
T. B. BOWRING	R. C. HAWKIN
A. M. BRAMALL	Hon. G. W. A.
OSCAR BROWNING	HOWARD, M.P.
J. F. L. BRUNNER, M.P.	R. MURRAY HYSLOP

The Eighty Club

JOSEPH KING	GEORGE H. RADFORD,
R. C. LAMBERT	M.P.
Sir CHARLES McLAREN,	Major LESLIE RENTON,
Bart., M.P.	M.P.
N. MICKLEM, K.C., M.P.	W. W. SHAW
FRANK NEWBOLT	G. TOULMIN, M.P.
HENRY NORMAN, M.P.	H. DE R. WALKER, M.P.
R. LEONARD POWELL	W. DUDLEY WARD, M.P.

The following ladies also accompanied the party : Mrs. H. A. Baker, Mrs. T. B. Bowring, Mrs. A. M. Bramall, Miss McLaren, Mrs. Frank Newbolt, Miss Micklem, Mrs. Renton, and Mrs. H. de R. Walker.

As this volume recording the events and impressions of the visit is intended for Hungarian as well as English friends, it may be worth while to state here what the Eighty Club is. It does not consist of eighty members and no more ; it is not confined to members who must be eighty years of age, nor are those who have reached that venerable limit necessarily excluded—misconceptions worth correcting in view of certain inaccuracies found current by us on our travels. The Eighty Club grew out of a committee formed in 1880 to support Liberal candidates at the General Election held in

Hungary

that year, when Mr. Gladstone overthrew the Government of Lord Beaconsfield. Since then it has consisted of the younger members of the Liberal party who are willing to give political addresses and lectures in all parts of Great Britain. It has no Club house in London, but is worked through a committee of thirty-two members and a secretary, with offices at 3, Hare Court, Temple. Its social life is maintained by public dinners, at which speeches by leading members are delivered and the Press are present; by "At Homes" at houses of hospitable members, and by "House Dinners" at various places, at which discussions, absolutely free and unfettered, are held, of which no report is published.

At the General Election of 1906, 212 members of the Club were candidates for seats in Parliament, of whom 163 were successful, and there are 30 members of the Eighty Club who are at the present time members of the House of Lords. The total membership of the Club is about 750.

The Independent Club, which represents the active fighting force of the Independent party in Hungary, as the Eighty Club does that of the Liberal party in England, was organised two years ago. To-day 260 of its members sit

The Eighty Club

in the Hungarian Parliament. The President of the Club is Mr. Francis Kossuth, the Minister of Commerce; and Count Albert Apponyi, the Minister of Public Instruction, shares with Mr. Kossuth the leadership of the party. The aim of the Independent Club and Party is not to affect a complete political separation from Austria. The demand is rather for a fair and proper share in the joint administration and services and the right for Hungarians to pursue their own policy in domestic affairs. Hitherto the joint Austro-Hungarian Ministries of Finance, Foreign Affairs, and War have been generally filled by Austrians, and the representatives of the Dual Monarchy in foreign lands have been men who are not Hungarian in birth or sentiment. Hungary asks a share of these honours and responsibilities. Further, there is resentment against constant interference in Hungarian politics and reference of Hungarian matters to Vienna. Quite recently, for example, the Austro-Hungarian Minister for War refused to allow any soldiers to be present at the solemn translation of the remains of the national hero, Francis Rákóczy, from Turkey to Hungary, though this ceremony was performed with the

Hungary

full consent of the national authorities and the sanction of the King.

It has been objected that the Independent party of Hungary is not a Liberal party. It is true that its prime aim is not to effect political and social reforms, and that it has risen by supplanting the old Liberal party of Hungary. But it has many of the characteristics of all Liberal parties; it insists on the right of the people to govern themselves through their Parliamentary representatives and institutions; it is also a reforming party; its present programme, as set out in the paper of Mr. Kossuth read at our Conference,* comprises many proposals for social reform. But at present the supreme issue before it is the issue that England had to face in the days of George III., namely, whether the people should work out their own programme through their elected representatives and a Ministry supported by Parliament, or should submit to a non-Parliamentary rule of Ministers selected by the Crown. The future alone can decide which of these alternatives will prevail in Hungary, though all Liberals and most Englishmen must wish success to the constitutional aims of the Independent party.

* Printed in Chap. VI.

CHAPTER II

THE JOURNEY AND ARRIVAL OF THE DEPUTATION

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THE JOURNEY AND ARRIVAL OF THE DEPUTATION

THE instructions issued to the members of the deputation before leaving England were to the effect that the party was to assemble at the Hotel Hungaria, Budapest, on the evening of Thursday, September 20th, but the question of route thither was left to individual inclination.

As a matter of fact, however, most of the members of the party met in Vienna on the 18th, and agreed to travel together the next day as far as Pozsony (Pressburg), proceeding thence on the 20th by steamer down the Danube.

On the way out many of our members had already discovered that the visit was exciting more than ordinary interest. In the dining cars of the trains conveying us to Vienna conversations with strangers led to the discussion of a

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political visit which the newspapers had already taught the public to anticipate. Austrian gentlemen assured us that they had no doubt as to the warmth of the reception in store for us at Budapest; and one section of the party *en route* met Mr. Radó Hazay, a secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, who was curtailing his holiday in Switzerland in order to return and assist in our entertainment and to perform services of which many grateful memories remain.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, September 19th, therefore, the party as then constituted left Vienna by train, and after a short journey of about an hour, reached Pozsony, the ancient capital of Hungary, intending, as has been said, to continue the journey by boat on the following day.

Our visit was unexpected, for we were still in our private capacity as a party of English travellers, and our official visit to Pozsony was not to take place until a week later. But the Mayor, Mr. Kumlik, hearing of our arrival, most courteously placed four boxes at the town theatre at our disposal, and accordingly after dinner we were able to listen to the operetta, "Die lustige Wittwe." For eleven months in



HUNGARIAN PEASANT.

Arrival of the Deputation

the year Hungarian pieces only are performed in this theatre, this arrangement being demanded by the terms of the subsidy granted by the Hungarian Government. But in September a short German season is given, and it so happened that our arrival in Pozsony occurred in the one month in which German pieces are performed.

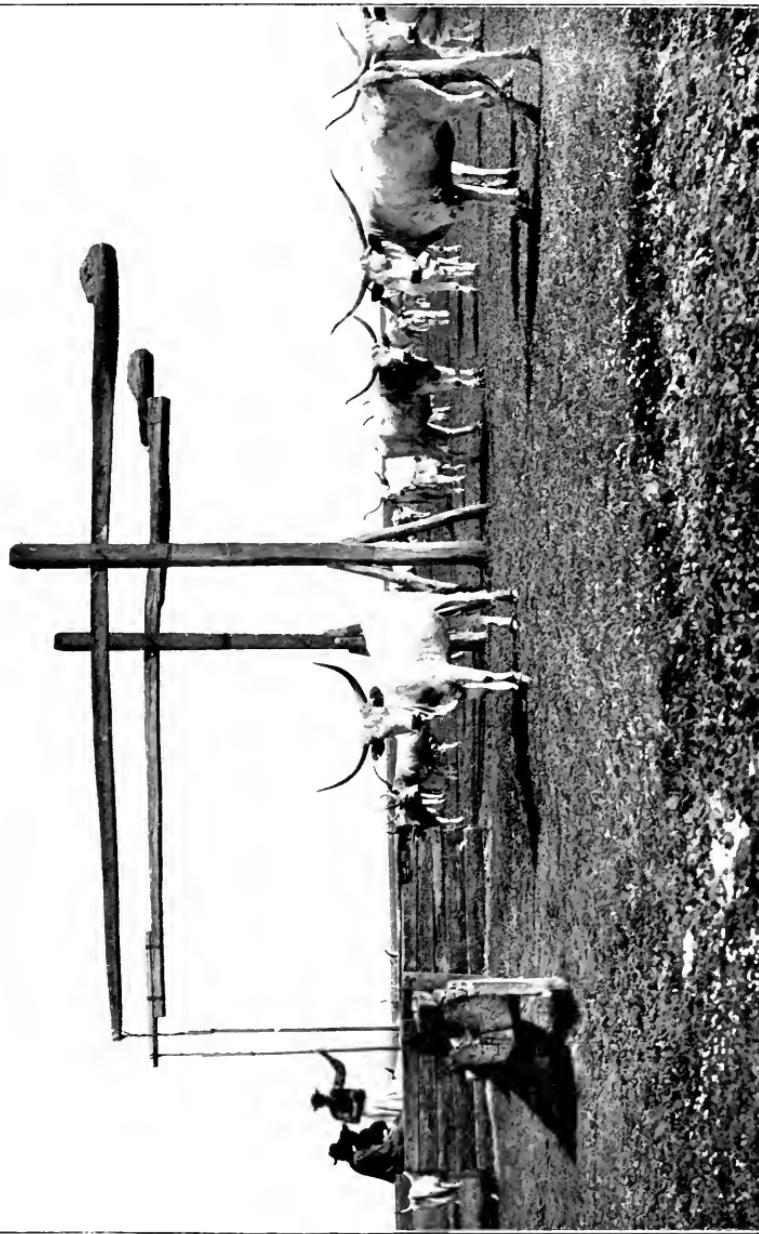
After the theatre we returned to our hotel to find a Hungarian gipsy or Czigány band especially engaged for our enjoyment. These Czigány bands, playing without a note of music before them, entirely by ear, seem able to perform any tune, dance, or opera asked of them. They are to be heard in almost every café and hotel in Hungary, and are engaged for almost every kind of entertainment. They are distinctly a feature in Hungarian national life, and though not of Magyar extraction, nevertheless reflect in the passionate manner of their playing something of the Magyar temperament and character. In addition to these Czigányok, Fräulein Betty Scheidl, the *prima donna*, came over from the theatre to supper and, perhaps to reciprocate the warmth of her reception by our party, kindly sang over again, accompanied by the band, some of the

Hungary

principal songs from the operetta we had just witnessed.

Next morning the rain descended in torrents, and we had perforce to relinquish all ideas of a steamer journey down the Danube. As we were to pay a second visit to Pozsony a week later, it was decided to proceed at once by train to Budapest. By this arrangement we gained several hours in the Capital, the train journey being much quicker than that by steamer, and were enabled to make use of the free passes which had been courteously sent to each member of the deputation before our departure from England. These passes enabled each holder to travel first class, accompanied by wife and daughter, for a fortnight over any part of the Hungarian State railways. As nearly all the lines in that country, which is one and a half times as large as Great Britain, are owned by the State, and as each time of using the passes seemed to procure for us greater courtesy and consideration from the officials, this generous attention on the part of our hosts greatly added to the pleasure and ease of our journeys.

From the train windows we had the opportunity of seeing something of the character of



WATERING CATTLE ON THE HUNGARIAN PLAIN.

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Arrival of the Deputation

the country which we were about to visit. As soon as Pozsony, which is situated on the left bank of the Danube on the last spurs of the lesser Carpathians, was left behind, the train approached the river and followed its course for part of the journey to Budapest. Across the river was a line of low hills gradually sinking to the level of the plain, and as we proceeded we obtained glimpses of Visegrád, with the ruins of the celebrated palace of King Matthias, and of Esztergom (German, Gran), from which the Primate of Hungary takes his title. To our left the great plain was plentifully dotted with farms, and afforded abundant evidence of agricultural enterprise.

As we arrived in Budapest early in the afternoon, we had time, under a sky clearing after heavy rain, to see something of the city before the serious work of the visit began. The capital of Hungary lies on both banks of the Danube, here about 500 yards broad, and is composed, as its name implies, of the twin cities of Buda and Pest. Buda (German, Ofen), the old city, rises steeply from the right bank of the river on three low hills, spurs of the wooded mountains which range themselves beyond. Here are the Royal Palace, the old Matthias

Hungary

Church, once a mosque and the scene in 1867 of the coronation of the present King, the official residence of the Premier, and many of the great public buildings and barracks. Between the hills are crowded the dwellings of the poorer classes, some of them dating from the period of the Turkish occupation ; while further back from the river the villas of the wealthier Hungarians are dotted over the mountains. The left bank, flat as the great central plain of Hungary, of which it is in fact one of the gates, is occupied by Pest, the modern city of commerce, and of the cafés, the city of business and education, of museums and art galleries. Here are the splendid new Houses of Parliament, the Law Courts and the Basilica of St. Stephen, formally opened less than a year ago. The principal streets of Pest radiate from a point on the Danube Quay not far from the Hotel Hungaria, the longest, the Andrassy-út, being a mile and three-quarters long, and leading from the heart of the city to the town park. These streets are connected by a semicircular boulevard or Körút.

The river is spanned by four fine bridges, and there are many ferry steamers crossing frequently between the twin cities.

Arrival of the Deputation

The members divided into groups for the afternoon, and were able to gain their first impressions of the city as they crossed the bridges, strolled along the quays, or enjoyed the beautiful gardens of the Margaret Island, and found everywhere something to note and enjoy. We were interested, for example, in the recruits being drilled and receiving the words of command in German. As is well known, the language in which this should be given has been, and still is, a burning issue between Hungarian Independents and the Dual Government.

In the evening the members of the deputation held a meeting in the rooms of the Magyar Union Club, at which the many arrangements suggested by our hosts and other subjects were discussed and settled. The Magyar Union Club has a fine suite of rooms on the ground floor of the Hotel Hungaria. This Club, as well as the Gentry Club and the Independent Club, made us honorary members for the period of our stay in Budapest. For this and many similar acts of consideration from more quarters than can be named the thanks of every member of the party were often expressed.



THE BASILICA OF ST. STEPHEN, BUDAPEST.

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CHAPTER III

BUDAPEST—THE GRAVE OF LOUIS KOSSUTH

CHAPTER III

BUDAPEST—THE GRAVE OF LOUIS KOSSUTH

ON Friday, September 21st, the whole of the members of the Eighty Club deputation, with the exception of a few who had been unable to reach Budapest in time, made a pilgrimage to the cemetery in order to lay a wreath upon the grave of Louis Kossuth. The spectacle was an unusual one. The size of the wreath; the brilliance of the great ribbons made in the Club colours of gold and blue, and embroidered “To the Glorious Memory of Louis Kossuth—the Eighty Club”; the long procession of carriages containing strangers to the country, amidst a crowd of Hungarians of all classes from Cabinet Minister to peasant, made up a scene not easy to forget.

When the proceedings began there were present at the monument, both within and beyond the iron railings which enclose an ample space around

Hungary

it, all the Eighty Club deputation, Mr. Francis Kossuth, Count Albert Apponyi, and many Hungarian Deputies and Professors, besides a large gathering of the public.

It had been intended that the eulogy of the great Hungarian should be spoken by Sir George Robertson, M.P., K.C.S.I., but as he had been prevented at the last moment by ill-health from leaving England, his place was taken by Mr. Nathaniel Micklem, K.C., M.P. The wreath having been laid on the grave by the Committee, Mr. Micklem spoke as follows :

“ Friends, it is fitting that our first public gathering on Hungarian soil should be at the grave of Louis Kossuth. To many of us until recently Hungary was almost unknown except so far as it was associated with the name of that great patriot. It is not the practice in our country to gather at the tombs of our national heroes, but there is not one of us who does not feel the beauty and simplicity of the ceremony, and who is not glad to take part to-day in laying our tribute on the grave of Hungary’s greatest son.

“ For us of the Eighty Club it is a special privilege and honour. We remember that, when Kossuth was an exile from his own land and

Budapest

found asylum in England, he was received by all men with open arms. Some looked upon him as a fanatic and revolutionary, and were afraid of his views. But at least he was welcomed by two of our most eminent men, Richard Cobden and John Bright, and we members of the Eighty Club are in our humble way proud to be the representatives of the principles which they held and proud to honour the memory of the great man whom they honoured.

“It is a good thing for us standing round Kossuth’s grave to be reminded of the principles for which he stood. We are accustomed to boast of the liberty and freedom of our own country, but we know that not an inch of freedom has ever been gained except after hard and strong fighting, and we know that there are forces of reaction which threaten us in England just the same as there are in Hungary.

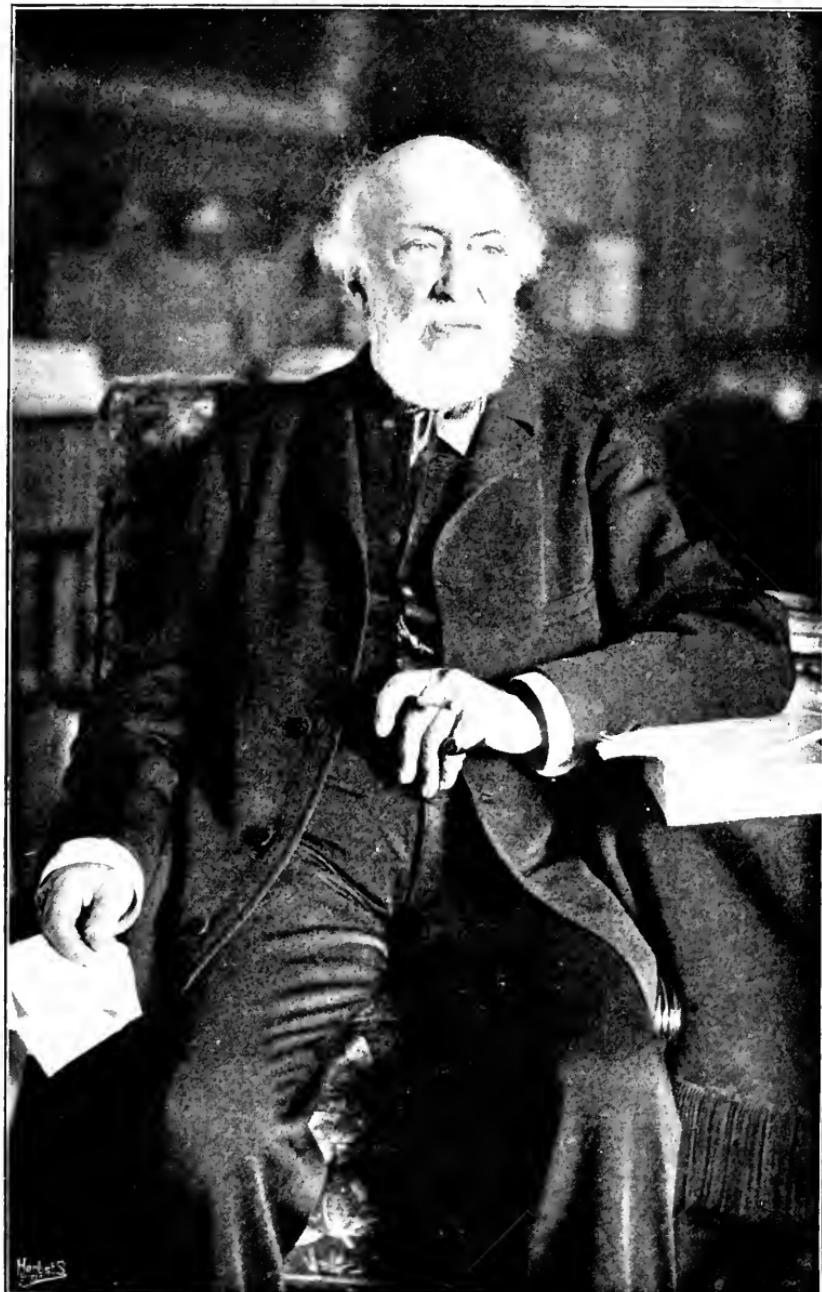
“It was, I think, in 1832, the year of our great Reform Bill in England, that Kossuth began to take an active part in political life. It was in that year that he began to transcribe the proceedings of the Diet in manuscript. Freedom of the Press was then unknown in Hungary. But Kossuth was determined that

Hungary

the people should know what their representatives were doing in Parliament, and that the voice and opinions of the people should have expression. In addition to publishing reports of Parliament, he started a manuscript newspaper in Pest, which, I believe, exists in its original name to-day, though to-day happily it is printed in the language of the people and is free.

“The governing classes were frightened; Kossuth was prosecuted, and condemned to imprisonment in the fort on the hill of Buda. There for two years he occupied himself in the study of the English language. He was wise enough to know what an immense force lay behind the English language and an appeal to England and America and the English-speaking people all over the world, and years afterwards he was able to conquer English prejudice by his splendid oratory and mastery of the language.

“After he came out of prison he devoted himself to hard and strenuous work for his country—always fighting for free institutions and popular government. In 1847 he was returned to Parliament as member for the county of Pest. Then in 1848 popular passions



THE LATE LOUIS KOSSUTH.

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swept over Europe and the Revolution came. I must not go into history with which you are all familiar. It looked as though Hungary would work out its revolution in peace. Popular government was framed with Count Batthyány as President and Louis Kossuth as Minister of Finance.

“ What splendid work that government might have accomplished if it had only lasted! In a few years it hoped to have done what it has taken fifty years to do. But its hopes were not to be fulfilled. The forces of reaction were too strong, the revolution was too sudden. The terrible year of 1848 followed. The ministry was destroyed and the country swept with war. Louis Kossuth fled into exile, and then came his visit to our country, where by his personal character and brilliant speeches he won our hearts.

“ The story of the exile you all know. How splendidly and strenuously Kossuth worked night and day for his beloved country, fighting for freedom and free institutions.

“ I do not know that he ever returned. When years afterward, in 1867, Francis Joseph and Elizabeth were crowned King and Queen of Hungary, and representative institutions came,

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it would have seemed as though Kossuth might have come back to share in the government, but he thought otherwise. He was an idealist ; he fought for the perfect thing, and apparently he could not take part in a government which did not rise to his ideal. He was no opportunist, but in his own way must needs carry on the strife. What a hard, strenuous life it was—great suffering, great loss, but ultimate triumph in the love and devotion of his fellow-countrymen.

“ You have seen on the hills of Buda an ancient rampart covered with ivy and evergreens. While it was doing its life-work, protecting friends within and repelling the enemy without, no ivy grew upon its morticed stones, but when its life-work was done and its days of peace had come, the loving hands of Nature clothed it with finery of evergreen and perennial beauty. And so with the life of the Hungarian hero : while he was doing his life-duty his lot was hard and strenuous, without rest, without peace, but now that it is over he is crowned with the beauty of immortality, with the undying love of a grateful and devoted people. We, here to-day from England, count it a high honour to be allowed to place our wreath of

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evergreen on his tomb as a mark of our respect and veneration."

When the wave of subdued applause and sympathy with which the company marked Mr. Micklem's closing words had died away, Count Albert Apponyi, speaking in English with wonderful ease, grace, and eloquence, expressed the thanks of his countrymen for the homage of the English visitors as follows:—

“ Gentlemen, from the bottom of my heart I am grateful—especially grateful for the noble oration which has just been heard by us from the lips of an eloquent speaker. We are deeply touched by the tribute of devotion and veneration which you have just paid to our great compatriot, Louis Kossuth. You have again found your way to our hearts with these words, though you English people have ever been near to the heart of our nation. Your honoured spokesman has told us how Louis Kossuth was regarded by some as a mere fanatic and visionary. But only the men who quite misunderstood Kossuth's great spirit could conceive so false a notion of his greatness. Kossuth was not a destroyer, but a great creator. When he became Minister of Finance and explained to his official secretary,

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Duschek, a hardened bureaucrat, his proposals for reform, the secretary was so carried away by the magnitude of his proposals that he cried, 'If you only succeed in passing half of these measures Hungary will become a new paradise!' And, indeed, Kossuth attained something of great and abiding value. He wrote his name on the heart of every patriotic Hungarian. He fought for our country's freedom, for democratic reforms, and for those principles which still constitute to-day the pillars of our politics. His creations were the foundation upon which Hungary is built to-day. By the act of devotion which you have here performed, my dear friends, you have shown us a great honour which touches us deeply. We shall never forget what has been witnessed and heard at this tomb to-day. I thank you again in the name of my countrymen for this splendid demonstration. Once again—heartfelt thanks!"

At the conclusion of the proceedings Mr. Francis Kossuth, who was naturally much moved, shook hands with each member of the deputation, and the company dispersed.

In the afternoon the ladies of the party visited Madame Wekerle, wife of the Prime Minister, at the Ministerelnökség, the Prime Minister's

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official residence. A hearty welcome, the conversation being carried on in French, marked the kindly reception of the Hungarian hostess.

Meanwhile a number of our Hungarian hosts took us in parties through the town or introduced us to their homes, and we became each hour more and more at home in the capital of the Magyars.

In the evening all the members of the deputation, with a few of their Hungarian friends, dined early at the Hotel Pannonia, famous for its national dishes, and at nine o'clock drove thence to the Gaiety Theatre (*Vígszínház*), where a special programme was performed for us at 9.30. To see ourselves as others see us is both healthy and amusing, so the following description of the occasion, translated from a Budapest journal, will recall the scene:—

“The earlier part of the evening’s performance was Hennequin and Weber’s mad farce, ‘Riquette.’ A few minutes before it concluded the English guests entered the theatre, where they occupied the fifteen boxes on the first row reserved for them. They were all in evening dress, and thus favourably distinguished from most gentlemen of the audience, who, in spite of the festive occasion, wore the clothes

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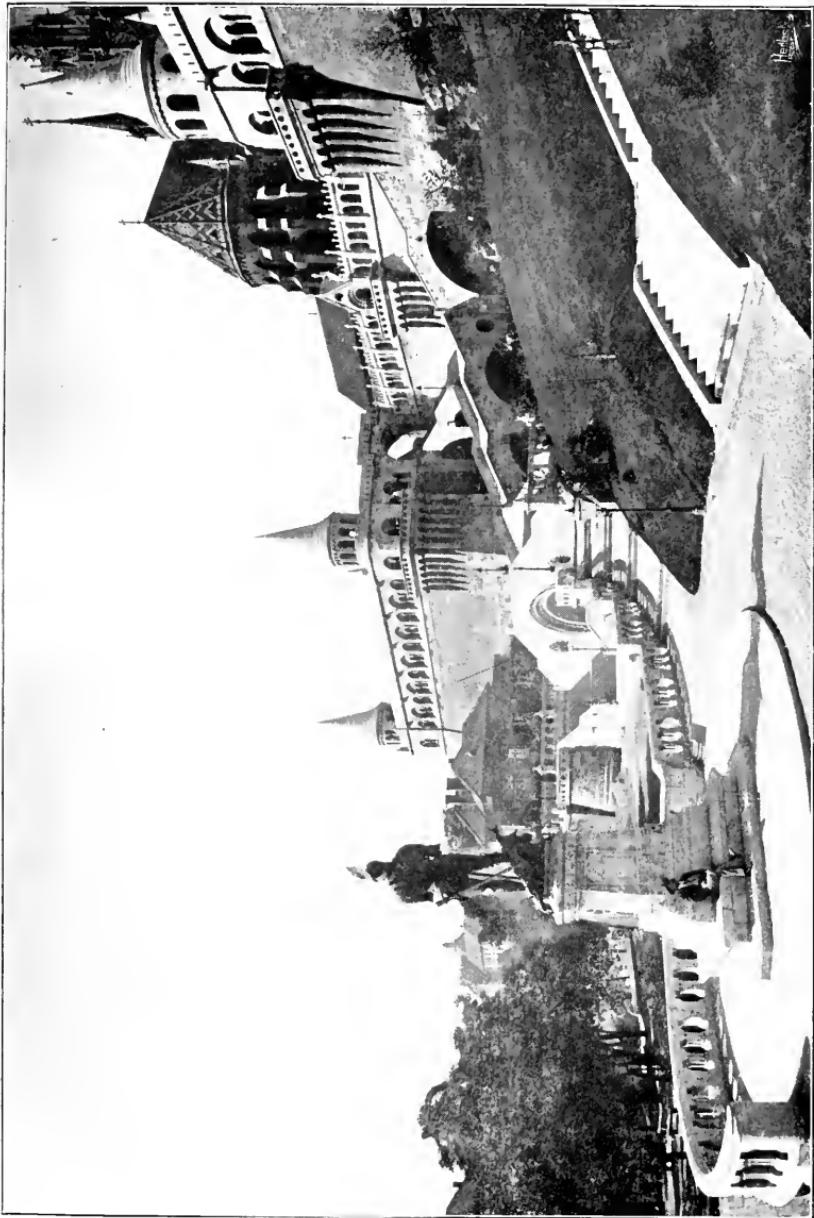
seen in the streets. But the auditorium was completely full, and the ladies were especially conspicuous, and they, in praiseworthy contrast to the men, appeared in elegant theatre costumes. Or is there perhaps some deeper explanation of this striking contrast between man and woman? The members of the Eighty Club had also brought ladies with them. The most delightful part of the evening was the reception accorded to the guests. The curtain had scarcely fallen on the last act of 'Riquette,' and the risible muscles of the audience had not relaxed after the farce which puts those muscles to so severe a test, when the solemn strains of 'God save the King' from the orchestra sounded through the theatre. The English guests rose in their boxes, and there instinctively rose with them the whole of the audience, which broke into enthusiastic unison with the splendid hymn. For several minutes cries of '*Éljen!*' and '*Hurrah!*' sounded through the house. All eyes were turned towards the Englishmen, who answered this spontaneous outburst of sympathy with smiles and bows. As the last notes of the hymn faded away a fresh storm of applause arose, in which the English guests now heartily joined.

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“The programme of the gala performance was the first act of Francis Herczeg’s ‘Ocskay Brigadéros.’ The director had printed for his foreign guests an English account of the piece. The performance began with the Rákóczi overture, which the band gave with splendid spirit, and its magic strains were perfectly rendered. The guests bestowed well-deserved applause on the performers. Then the curtain rose, and a lively dramatic picture of the olden times of the Kurucz (national soldiers) was unfolded. In the middle of bloody and terrible fights stands the brave warrior Ocskay. Half-way through the first act the musical performance on the *tárogató*, so melancholy and wild, moved the hearers to an outburst of applause. The performance was admirable, and its acme was reached by the powerful representation of the proud Ocskay by Mr. Fenyvessy. It was past half-past ten when the performance concluded, and the audience left the theatre in festive mood.”

CHAPTER IV

HUNGARY'S PARLIAMENT HOUSE
BANQUET GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT



THE APPROACH TO ST. MATTHIAS' CHURCH, BUDA.



CHAPTER IV

HUNGARY'S PARLIAMENT HOUSE—BANQUET GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT

ON the morning of Saturday, September 22nd, the Eighty Club members separated into different parties in order to visit different objects of interest in the capital. The pleasure of seeing the sights of a beautiful city was increased by our being accompanied by citizens who knew and were proud of their city's charms and character, and by finding preparations made for our seeing everything under the best conditions.

Most of us visited the Royal Palace in Buda. Here the British Consul-General, Mr. Clark, conducted the party over the Palace, with its gardens, the St. Stephen Monument—sacred to Stephen, the first Christian king of Hungary—and the Gothic Cathedral of St. Matthias. Most of the Palace is of recent date, built as a skilful enlargement of the Palace erected for Maria

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Theresa in 1748 onwards. Its State apartments were built in recent years, so that the King might hold receptions here as magnificent as those of Vienna.

Others of our party, more interested perhaps in social work, visited schools. At the Boys' High School (Gymnasium) in the Barcsay Street, these were received by the chief director, Dr. Floris Cherven, who greeted them in a Latin speech. The director, with Dr. Maurice Darvai and Professor Charles Sebestyén, conducted them through the building, and showed them the various classes. Then they drove on to the Queen Elizabeth Royal School for Girls in the town park, where they were shown over by the principal and other mistresses. This is at once a Normal College for training female teachers and a Secondary School for Girls, with some of the scholars in residence as a boarding college. The building, which is quite recent, is in the so-called "Secessionist" style of architecture, of which the artistic merits would no doubt be variously judged. This school, well situated, extensive, and cheerful, excited warm admiration. The class-rooms were large, the classes small, and everything, from dormitories to kitchen, seemed in admirable order. One

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class was using Mr. Oscar Browning's book, "A History of Theories of Education," in a Magyar translation. This work is a text-book in Hungary. All teachers whom we met not only knew it but were anxious to see the author—a sure sign that it is a book which educates not only by informing, but also by attracting the student.

There are many pleasing features about Budapest. One especial characteristic of the city is the large number of statues of national heroes; warriors, poets (as Eötvös and Petöfi), and statesmen (as Széchenyi and Deák) predominate. But there are also monuments which keep alive the memory of great events. Perhaps most strikingly original of these is the bas-relief on the outside of a church at one of the busiest corners of the city, recalling the relief brought by Baron N. Wesselényi to the sufferers by a great Danube inundation in 1838.

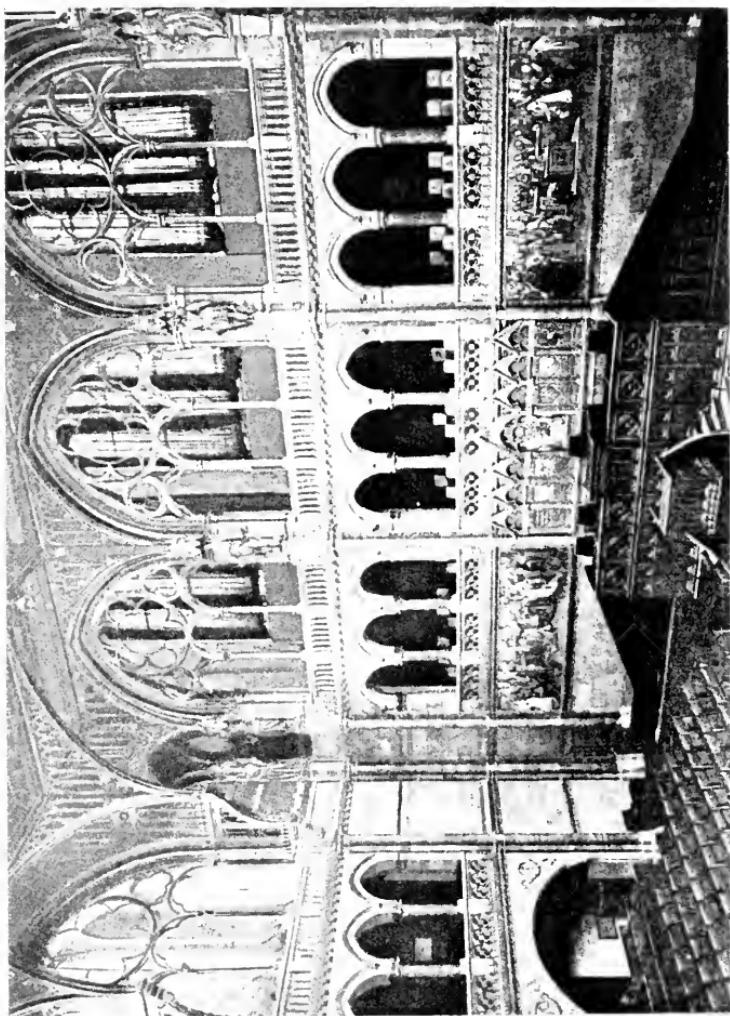
At noon the whole party gathered to visit the Új-országház, the Parliament buildings. The magnificent edifice, which, being built on the river-side and designed in the later Gothic style, suggests comparison with the Houses of Parliament at Westminster, covers 15,000 square metres (about $3\frac{3}{4}$ acres), and cost over one and a half million sterling. The height

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of the great central dome is 348 feet. On all sides it stands free from other buildings. It faces on the west the great Renaissance pile of the Palace of Justice (Curia), and on the east looks across the broad Danube to the heights of Buda.

We were here received by Dr. Ignácz Darányi (the Minister of Agriculture), Mr. Anton Günther (State Secretary), Mr. Louis Návay (the Vice-President of the House of Deputies), Mr. Aristides Dessewffy (Secretary of the Treasury), and more than twenty Deputies. The Vice-President greeted us heartily, and Mr. Micklem responded. After a short explanation in English given by the Vice-President, he conducted us through the two chambers, the lobbies, the grand staircase, the terrace, and the rooms allotted to Ministers and to the Delegations under the Kiegyezés (Ausgleich), which sit alternately here and at Vienna and supervise the common affairs (chiefly war and finance) of the Dual Monarchy.

The interior of the building, which is in an earlier style of Gothic than the Tudor Gothic of St. Stephen's, Westminster, is gorgeously decorated, gilding being profusely used. Possibly because the architect had a freer hand



INTERIOR OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT.

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the plan appears more convenient than that of the British Parliament building.

Constitutionally the Chamber of Deputies in Hungary corresponds closely to the House of Commons. The Upper House, the Chamber of Magnates, differs in several respects from the House of Lords, for not only do noblemen and prelates of the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches possess seats, but also members of Magnate families who contribute more than 6,000 crowns to the land tax. A Magnate may be elected as a Deputy, losing his right to sit in the Upper House for that Parliament. A Minister is entitled to join in the debates in either House, but can only vote in one. The seating of the two Houses is arranged with semicircular rows of desks, rising one behind the other. Each member has his own allotted seat and desk with facilities for writing in the Chamber. The speakers address the House from a tribune below the raised desk of the President. There is a special row of desks in the front for Ministers. Generally, the internal arrangements of the House are those of the French and other Continental assemblies and not of the British House of Commons.

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In the afternoon many of our party accepted the invitation of the Minister of Agriculture to visit the unique Agricultural Museum, which, though not yet formally opened to the public, was nearing final arrangement in its new abode, the striking new building on the side of the lake in the town park (Városliget). This building covers a great area, and is intended to illustrate Magyar architecture as shown in some famous historic edifices of different periods. The interior contains a series of spacious, well-lighted halls, exhibiting all the various agricultural and natural products of Hungary. Here we were met by Dr. Alajos Paikert, the director of the Museum, with Madame Paikert. Dr. Paikert, having studied agriculture in America, both in the United States and in Canada, for some years, speaks fluent and correct English and understands agricultural problems with a cosmopolitan experience. He gave us a most luminous description of the contents of the Museum and the work of his department in the State, answering the many questions which we put to him.

Agriculture being by far the greatest industry of Hungary, the Government foster it with special care and in many directions. Nothing



GROUP ON THE STEPS OF THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, BUDAPEST, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 1906.

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comparable to this Museum exists elsewhere in Europe. It contains everything that an agriculturist, landowner, or sportsman might care to find recorded or preserved in a national gallery of the country and its natural products. A special account of it has been written by the curator, and will be found in Chap. XV.

Those who spent the couple of hours with Dr. Paikert in this beautiful Museum were prepared by their visit to see and enjoy much that the excursions of the next few days were to show them.

The same evening the Eighty Club were the guests of the Government at the Országos Casino, the home of the famous Gentry Club. We were received in the Hall of the Club by Dr. Wekerle (the Prime Minister), Count Albert Apponyi (Minister of Education) and Countess Apponyi, Count Aladár Zichy (Minister *a latere*), Mr. Louis Jekelfalussy (Honved Minister), Mr. Géza Josipovich (Minister for Croatia), Count Stephen Károlyi and Countess Károlyi, Mr. Louis Návay (Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies), Mr. Koloman Fülepp (Chief Burgo-master), Mr. Charles Demény (Post Director), Mr. L. Hegyeshalmy, Mr. Joseph Szterényi, and Mr. A. Günther. Dinner, presided over

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by Dr. Wekerle, was served in the Ladies' Saloon, where covers were laid for about one hundred, and the Berkes Gipsy Band played Hungarian music during the repast.

In accordance with the Continental custom by which the first toasts and speeches of a banquet are given before the courses of the meal are concluded, the Prime Minister rose and, speaking in French, proposed the health of King Edward. The toast was honoured, all standing, amid cries of "*Eljen!*" while the band played "God Save the King." Then Mr. (now Sir) Henry Norman, M.P., gave the toast of the King of Hungary's health in the following words:—

"I have the high honour to propose the toast of the health of His Majesty Ferencz József, King of Hungary. His Majesty's venerable figure—I may quote our great poet and say, 'that good grey head that all men know'; the nobility of character which has enabled him to bear with equal dignity the richest gifts and the hardest blows of fortune; his deep and well-proved love of peace, endear him to all the world, and assuredly not least to Englishmen. I ask you to drink to His Majesty the King of Hungary, the friend of



HUNGARIAN MINISTERS.

FRANCIS KOSSUTH.

(Commerce.)

IGNÁCZ DARÁNYI.

(Agriculture.)

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COUNT ALBERT APPONYI.

(Public Instruction.)

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peace, the true guardian of the constitutional liberty of Hungary. *Éljen a Király!*"

This toast was drunk with the same enthusiasm as that accorded to the toast of King Edward, while the band led the strains of that solemn national air the Hungarian Hymnus [Isten áldd meg a magyart].

Count Albert Apponyi then proposed the health of the Eighty Club. His rising was greeted by the company with the enthusiasm which his personality always calls forth alike in his own countrymen and in all who have come to know him as orator or as man. He said he was authorised by his great friend and leader Ferencz Kossuth, the Minister of Commerce, to say how sorry he was that ill-health prevented his attendance that evening. For him and for his country he thanked their English guests for their presence here. He continued: "We Hungarians feel not only a certain great admiration, but a deep sympathy towards the English nation.. We are in comparison with them a small nation, but history declares that we have always been the land of freedom. Moreover, the English and the Hungarian constitutions have much in common. In the sixteenth century there were but two

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constitutional states in Europe, England and Hungary. That fact drew the bond of history tighter between the two countries. The two nations have their common love of freedom. Of the thoughts and feelings in the breast of every Hungarian first and foremost was the love of personal and national liberty. In the name of the whole Hungarian people I wish that our English guests may return home with impressions of the gallant and liberty-loving Hungarian people, and that the bond, tied in days of old and tightened to-day, may grow still stronger. The friendships formed here by the visit of the Eighty Club and the meeting of two nationalities means a valued treasure to the Hungarian people."

The task of replying to this toast fell to Mr. Henry Norman, M.P. If one may judge from the interest and applause which followed his words and the full notices which they received in the Press, both English and foreign, and no less in Austria than in Hungary, one may say that he fully satisfied the needs of the occasion. Mr. Norman said :—

“ Monsieur le Premier Ministre, your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—On behalf of the Eighty Club, and especially of those of us



MEMBERS OF THE HUNGARIAN CABINET.

DR. A. WEKERLE.
(Premier and Finance.)

COUNT ALADÁR ZICHY.
(Minister a latere.)

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GÉZA POLÓNYI.
(Justice.)

COUNT JULES ANDRÁSSY.
(Interior.)

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who have the happiness of being here, I beg leave to express our deep sense of the honour done us by this most distinguished reception at the outset of our Hungarian visit. We recognise to the full the remarkable compliment paid to us by the Hungarian Government, emphasised, sir, by your distinguished presence in the chair, and we beg your Excellency, and all the members of the Ministry, to accept the assurance of our profound appreciation. To His Excellency Count Apponyi, His Excellency Monsieur de Kossuth, whose absence we deplore, and the members of the Independent Club, I seize this first opportunity to tender publicly our most grateful thanks for their invitation and for all the kindness and hospitality we are enjoying and are still to enjoy. That invitation, sir, was as unexpected as it was welcome. There was never any question of our glad and grateful acceptance, and to-day we are envied by every other member of our Club, and I am sure by tens of thousands of Englishmen besides. One and all we eagerly anticipate the time when we in return may welcome a Hungarian deputation to London, not, I fear, with so brilliant an entertainment, but assuredly with national esteem and personal goodwill equal to your own.

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“Sir, we know that it is good for us to be here. There is not one of us but feels that by his presence he is charged with a significant message, that he is obeying a high mandate.

“Let me hasten to explain. We are merely private members of a political party and a political club. Not one of us holds any kind of official position. We speak for ourselves alone. Yet, sir, as Englishmen, individually of as little consequence as you please, we do come to you in a representative capacity.

“The past few years have witnessed a great and blessed change in certain international relationships—a growth of goodwill among men, goodwill divinely linked to peace on earth. Suspicion has given place to trust; sympathy has silenced criticism; nations that stood aloof in jealous doubt clasp hands to-day in confident friendship. Great peoples now commune together in the sunshine of *ententes cordiales* where not so long ago their communications were the chill correspondence of stern diplomats or the stormy invectives of irresponsible newspapers. We, as Englishmen, may be pardoned for tracing the origin of this change, of which we are so conscious, chiefly to the influence of one man—an influence vast in

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itself, but owing its striking success to the lofty ideal by which it is inspired and to the perfect judgment with which it has been exercised. I speak, of course, of His Majesty King Edward VII., and of the cordial relations of Great Britain with great Continental nations which have already characterised his ever-memorable reign. These new and happier relationships have received expression and drawn fresh strength from the exchange of international visits, such as those between the French and British Parliaments, and the visit of a group of distinguished German editors to London. Now it is our proud privilege, at your generous invitation, to inaugurate what we trust may prove an ever-growing personal intimacy between Hungarians and Englishmen.

“Sir, the humblest group of Englishmen, bearing a message of goodwill to people of another race, and contributing ever so slightly to the franker and clearer mutual understanding of two great nations, may, for the reason I have given, without hesitation claim that in so doing they are following the policy of their Sovereign himself, the policy which has multiplied for him the deep affection and the grateful loyalty of his people. And to those of you who heard the

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impressive address of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman to the delegates of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with its twin keynotes of *amour inébranlable de la paix* and *pleine confiance dans l'avenir*—an address destined to be historic and quoted on almost every tongue in Europe within twenty-four hours—I need not say how ardently our Prime Minister shares his Sovereign's ideals.

“ We are such a group ; we bring you such a message ; we earnestly hope that our visit may conduce to clearer understanding and closer sympathy between Hungary and Great Britain. Thus, and thus only, do we represent our Sovereign and our Government, our people and our party. Without mandate, this is our mandate ; without official position, this is our office ; unimportant ourselves, this is our weighty mission.

“ Gentlemen, truly our task is an easy one. It is accomplished before it is begun. Between England and Hungary there is little call for mutual explanation ; we need no interpreter to each other. I have heard it said that Hungary is the only country in Europe where an Englishman is liked, whatever qualities he may possess, or in spite of many qualities he may possess, simply because he is an Englishman. We have

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indeed great things of national life in common—an ineradicable love of freedom; an ancient monarchy 'broad-based upon the people's will'; seven centuries of constitutional history. We have our *Magna Charta*; you have your *Golden Bull*. We have our *Westminster*; you have your *Field of Rákos*. Is there a Hungarian who does not know the name of Gladstone? The name of Kossuth was a household word in England for generations, and men named their sons after him in the hope that they would grow up to resemble him.

"And I may mention a peculiar link of another kind between us—the delight of both peoples in all the higher forms of sport. Hungarians and Englishmen alike delight in all sports demanding a trained body, a keen mind; sports played with courage and in honour. To be a 'good sportsman' is an aspiration of youth with us both.

"As well interpret the mountains to the sea as nation to nation when they share such ideals, such history, such memories, and such customs. In what concerns these great things we bring you no argument, no apt reasons for national goodwill. We understand each other by instinct; a common sympathy is born in our blood.

"But it is of you, of Hungary, and not of

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ourselves, that we would speak to-day. No Englishman can think of Hungary without a quickened pulse. Has any land on earth a more romantic story? For a thousand years, it has been truly said, the Magyar sword was never sheathed in its defence of liberty. And not of your own liberty alone, but of ours—the liberty of Europe, of civilisation. But for you the Christianity of the Western world might still be lacking its triumph; for centuries Hungarian chivalry was its bulwark. The memory of your king, St. Stephen, and his crown, are your most precious possessions, and every student of history reverences them. A poet has said:—

“ ‘ Napoleon fought with Cæsar’s blade;
Dante was godlike Homer’s son;
Timoleon prompted Washington,
And Paul St. Louis’ fierce crusade.’

Who, then, shall measure the debt of Europe, sheltering behind the point of his sword, and ringing with grateful eulogy of him, to that matchless soldier and stainless hero, John Hunyadi? True, the edifice he defended was overthrown when he had passed away, but its foundations remained for ever, and they have been builded into the very structure of our

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common civilisation. Not a soldier has ever fought thereafter in a good cause in Europe but has struck a blow with Hunyadi's sword. A phrase on all men's lips is often a nobler monument than stone or bronze, and your King Matthias, who attracted to his brilliant Court in this city the literature and the arts of Europe, lives for ever in your saying, 'King Matthias is dead, truth is fled.' And many of us know the stories and understand the emotion with which you recall the heroic deeds of Szondi at Drégel, of Losonczy at Temesvár, of Dobó at Eger, and of Zrinyi at Szigetvár. Who can doubt the future of Hungary when he recalls her past? She was utterly laid waste by the Mongols. 'Since the birth of Christ,' said the historian, 'no country has ever been overwhelmed by such misery.' Yet she arose from the ashes to the influence and the splendour of her fifteenth century. Again, she was overwhelmed by Sultan Suleiman, and seemed to have perished for ever in the awful disaster of Mohács. But less than two centuries after she rose once more, and on the self-same spot. Her motto has ever been, in Petofi's immortal verse, '*Talpra magyar!*'—'Advance, Hungary!' Such days gone by foretell no doubtful days to come. Therefore

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to-day Europe sees without surprise a Hungary abounding with vitality ; prolific in ideas and men to execute them ; her commerce increasing ; her agriculture, so wisely fostered, becoming daily more scientific ; her capital, this beautiful and historic city, pulsing with national life. As Englishmen we rejoice in this, and we rejoice in your peaceful constitutional development. To the growth of constitutional government anywhere no Englishman can remain indifferent. It is the breath of our nostrils—upon it our Empire stands. Therefore, as I say, we rejoice with you in your constitutional progress, and we pray that it may always be as true of Hungary as of Britain that—

“ ‘ Statesmen at her councils met,
And knew the season when to take
Occasion by the hand, and make
The bounds of freedom broader yet.’

For in such sagacious statesmanship, backed by the sober sense of a people’s responsibility, lie, in our view, the promise and the permanence of national well-being. You have your own problems, as we have, and indeed as all countries have. They are, no doubt, grave ones, and their solution will not affect yourselves alone. Of these we say no word ; it

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would be improper, and indeed presumptuous, on our part, to express an opinion upon them. But this we say, as all Englishmen in our place would say, that nothing which concerns you leaves us unmoved, and that we follow your national life with keen and affectionate interest. We are certain whatever questions may present themselves to you will be solved not only with fortitude but with prudence; that courage, which every Hungarian draws in with his first breath, will go hand in hand with wise counsel; that the happiness of all your people will be the aim of all your statesmen. We trust—indeed, we are confident—that the glory of your past will be excelled by the splendour of your future; and that, giving and receiving in equal measure of the greatness of the Dual Monarchy, Hungary will ever grow, under the blessing of peace, in prosperity and in happiness. We promise you that at each stage of her march onward and upward Englishmen shall be among the first to utter or to echo the cry, '*Éljen a magyar nemzet!*'”

Mr. Frank Newbolt also replied in a speech which further emphasised the surprise and gratification of all members of the deputation at the warmth of our reception and the beauty of the country. Having negotiated the details of the

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programme with the gentlemen specially deputed to arrange for the comfort and enjoyment of their foreign guests, he was in a position, he said, to testify to the elaborate care and generosity which they had bestowed on their task, and to express in public the unanimous feeling of gratitude which animated every one for whom he spoke. He alluded to the missionary spirit and work of the Eighty Club, and its objects and methods, reminding his audience that it was not an earthly habitation, nor housed in some luxurious lounge, but only a company of men inspired by a spirit in which the essential parts of youth, freedom, and equality were fused together in an enthusiasm of self-sacrifice.

By way of humorous illustration he compared the journeys of the Eighty Club speakers to the frenzied morning distribution of the evening papers in London, and said they were ready to go anywhere, in all directions and over any obstacles, at the bidding of the Secretary.

They had not so far seen any opportunity for exercising their rule of self-sacrifice. They had come to Budapest with a vague idea of the traditions of Hungarian hospitality and little accurate knowledge of the country, and the result of their visit so far had been to give them

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the impression that they were kings and queens in their own country being entertained in another, and that the most delightful.

They paid particular attention, when visiting the Royal Palace, to the splendid rooms reserved for foreign sovereigns, and there may have been some little friction amongst the ladies as to a choice. Speaking for himself, he thought that of all the sovereigns of whom he had read he most resembled the Queen of Sheba, whose remark to King Solomon was indeed on every one's lips.

He congratulated the Government on the climate, reminding them that in England, where there is none, the Government are generally considered to be responsible for the weather; but more particularly they were to be congratulated on the thoroughness and science of their administration (to which he referred in detail), which reminded him of the methods and also of the success of the Eighty Club at the late General Election.

He said that there was one thing that he could not do, and that was to answer a printed paper of questions he had found in his bedroom. He read two of them, which were as follows: "What did meet your approval

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here in first line?" and, "What has been the object of your dislike respecting which deficiency or inconvenience did you perceive?" It was impossible to answer either of these questions, as everything was in first line and there was no deficiency; our visit was a grand success, the sympathy with Hungarians and cordial regard for their country with which we came had been largely increased, and we felt that in leaving our new friends we should share an imperishable memory.

Count Stephen Károlyi proposed "The Ladies," in a French speech of grace and wit; and the toast having been duly honoured, the Hon. Geoffrey Howard, M.P., responded, as a bachelor, for them, saying that though he came with no lady, he understood from one of the party who had his wife with him that the ladies shared our discomforts, trebled our joys, and more than doubled our expenses.

Finally, Mr. W. de Ruttkay conveyed the regret of Mr. Kossuth that he was unable to be present at this gathering, but said that he expected to be well again to join in the Conference on Monday.

At the close of the dinner most of the party visited the fine rooms of the Gentry Club in

Hungary's Parliament House

the same building. Some played billiards, others watched a fine display of fencing, conversation and good-fellowship were prolonged till midnight sounded, when the last guests left the scene of what must have been one of the pleasantest evenings in their lives.



CHAPTER V

THE CITY OF BUDAPEST—ENTERTAINMENT
BY THE MUNICIPALITY





Photo by

[*Mrs. H. A. Baker.*

ON THE DANUBE EMBANKMENT, BUDAPEST.

(p. 109)

CHAPTER V

THE CITY OF BUDAPEST—ENTERTAINMENT BY THE MUNICIPALITY

SUNDAY, September 23, 1906, was a day of many events, and a full programme was arranged for the entertainment of the deputation. It cannot be said that any compulsion was applied ; individual members pursued their own studies and followed such occupations as were consonant with their several theories of life. But the programme was there, and available for those who were too indolent to strike out a course of their own, or who were confident that their hosts were the best judges of the disposal of their time. Two-horsed victorias, with the Hungarian steeds which one learns to appreciate so highly for their speed and ease as soon as there is a chance for the driver to give them their heads, awaited the deputation at the

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Hotel Hungaria. These took the members, with their ladies and many of their Hungarian hosts, for a drive round the town, then over the Margaret Bridge (Margithid), not yet freed from toll by the Budapest Council, to the Margaret Island (Margitsziget). This island forms a public park washed by the Danube, 50 hectares in extent. It is the property of the Archduke Joseph, who, after spending large sums on laying it out and planting it, building baths and providing many attractions, has thrown it open to the public. Passing the football ground near the bridge which gives access to the island at its northern end, we were driven the whole length of the island, at the southern end of which is a racecourse and pigeon-shooting "sport." The Archduke has erected a casino and an hotel, and villas let to families for the summer season. A sulphur spring rises from an artesian well, 372 feet deep, and flows, smoking with discoloured banks, into the Danube. Some of the water is intercepted and bottled for medicinal purposes, while more is used in the large and sumptuous bathing house. The gardens are rich in foliage and flowers, and there are many gay-leaved and flowering plants which in our sterner climate we only see under glass.



DR. STEPHEN BÁRCZY.

(Mayor of Budapest.)

(p. 113)

The City of Budapest

The party was here not free from the attentions of sly photographers, and was only saved by natural dignity from being depicted in ridiculous attitudes. On our return the ruins of St. Margaret's Convent were seen. Here Margaret, the daughter of King Béla IV., founded a cloister. Later the Turks destroyed it, and raised a mosque on the ruins, which in turn was destroyed when they were driven out.

Returned to the hotel, the deputation lunched there as the guests of the Corporation of Budapest. The Mayor, Dr. Stephen Bárczy, presided, supported by Count Albert Apponyi, and a number of his civic brethren. Among those present were the following Deputies : Zs. Szász, E. Németh, D. Nagy, and A. Keszits ; and the following Councillors : L. Hegyeshalmy, C. Vosits, J. Kun, G. Lung, B. Melly, G. Almády ; also Count Géza Festetich, Mr. A. Günther, and others. A special Hungarian character was imparted to this repast, not only by the Hungarian band which played during the meal, by the serving of light sparkling beer with the soup, and, after several special Hungarian dishes and wines, by the dainty baskets of fruits handed round bound with the ribbon of red, white, and green stripes (the national colours), but by the table decora-

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tions and the flags, Hungarian and British, which were especially noticeable.

The Mayor, Dr. Bárczy, speaking in English, proposed the health of our King in the following words :—

“ Ladies and Gentlemen,—It causes us peculiar pleasure to see in our midst our dear friends from England. We greet them, not only from loyalty but from genuine cordiality, with traditional Hungarian hospitality. I raise my glass to that noble gentleman who, sitting on the throne of the United Kingdom, has not only shown a hearty feeling of sympathy and friendship towards the Hungarian nation, but has manifested the most beautiful virtue of a ruler, in that he has so warmly entered upon the blessed work of universal peace. I say from a full heart, may God bless and preserve for many years yet to come His Majesty King Edward of England! God save the King!”

After this toast was duly honoured, Sir Charles McLaren, M.P., proposed the health of the King of Hungary, a toast which was received with equal cordiality.

Then the Mayor, again speaking in English, proposed the health of the guests. He said :—

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“Ladies and Gentlemen,—The inhabitants of the capital (Budapest) received with great joy the news that delegates of the London Eighty Club were going to pay us a visit. I welcome you here in the name of the capital, and I give expression to the wish that you may be happy in our midst. Your visit is dear to us not only from the traditional attachment and respect which we have for the English nation, but because we see here assembled together the members of a distinguished society, who visit us to give expression to their lively interest in Hungary. Here in the utmost zone of Western European culture, Hungary, succeeding thereto after centuries of hard fighting, can display its hospitable and cultured institutions. We beg you, therefore, to judge everything which you have occasion to see here with that benevolence which you have brought with you from home, and which benevolence we deserve as a struggling and freedom-loving but hard-fighting nation. I raise my glass, in the name of the capital (Budapest), to the health of our guests.”

Mr. G. H. Radford, M.P., who is a member of the London County Council, was considered by all to be a suitable person to reply to this

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toast and to return thanks for the hospitality of the Corporation of the Hungarian capital. He said he regretted his inability to address his hosts in their own language. The honour of responding to this toast had been conferred on him not because he was a member of the Eighty Club, but because he happened to be a member of the London County Council ; and it is considered fitting that a member of the governing body of London, the capital of the British Empire, should express the gratitude of the party for the hospitality of the municipal authorities of the capital of Hungary. He said that the first thing that strikes a visitor in Budapest is the noble view and the unparalleled beauty of its site. He confessed reluctantly to its “having the advantage of London, seated indeed on the Thames, a river of historical associations of which we are proud, but, compared to the Danube, a mere rivulet. It may be said by the critical that the municipality did not create the Danube, but you have not been ungrateful for your natural advantages. You have spanned it with strong and convenient bridges, and flanked it with stately buildings. You have laid out broad and spacious streets, and your

The City of Budapest

architects have taken care that the effect shall not be marred by mean or unsightly edifices. Your civic affairs have been administered in a bold, wise, and progressive spirit. We are pleased to be here, and to enjoy the opportunity of collecting material for applying the comparative method to our municipal problems, and we confess that we have learned things from you, When considering our electric tramways in London we did not arrive at any decision before we had sent our officers to Budapest and obtained from them a valuable report on your conduit system of electrical traction.” Mr. Radford also spoke of the traffic regulations and the facilities offered to the myriads of passengers in London by the freeing of the bridges from tolls. “Budapest has many of these problems to solve, and we are anxious to learn your proposed methods in dealing with these and the success that attends you. Our visits to your schools have satisfied us that you approach the subject of education in no niggardly spirit. You doubtless believe that a sound education is the hope of the children of the poor and the best weapon for a nation in the commercial competition of the world.” He thanked the Mayor and the autho-

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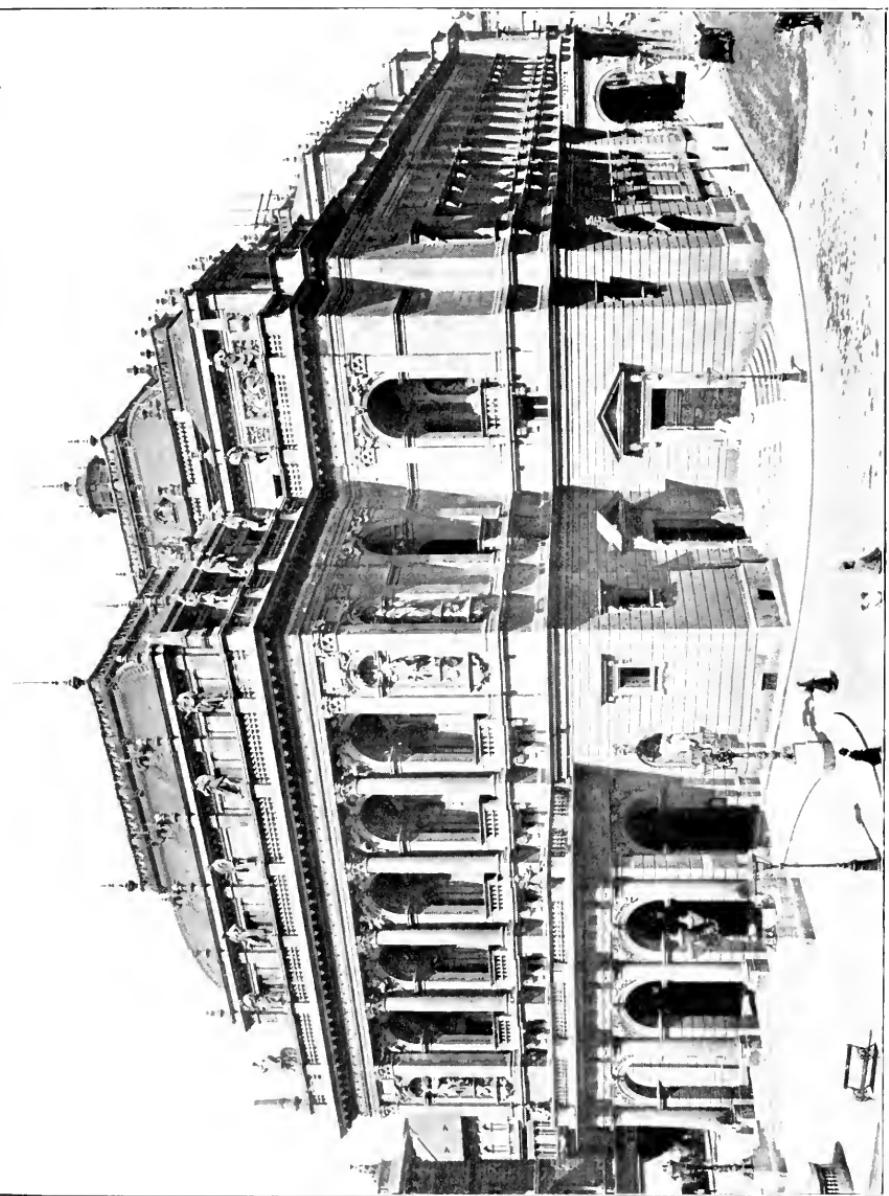
rities on behalf of the Eighty Club for their great and generous hospitality.

Major Leslie Renton, M.P., then proposed the health of the Mayor in felicitous terms, and after his Worship's reply, a Budapest Councillor, Dr. Béla Bossányi, "The English Ladies" (all of whom he regarded as *daughters* of their husbands) in a speech of great warmth and eloquence.

Captain Fletcher-Vane replied on their behalf in a manner which indicated a due sense of the gravity and delicacy of his subject.

As the deputation left the hotel they found the main streets thronged with a vast procession, organised in connection with the great National Catholic Conference, which was just gathering in Budapest; priests, monks and nuns, peasants and country women in costume, societies, fraternities and guilds of men, women, and children, schools of young and elder scholars, moved slowly on, carrying crucifixes and flags, chanting hymns, and marching solemnly towards the great Basilica. This long procession took over an hour and a half to pass, and gave a great opportunity to see and study the national types of both town and country.

At seven o'clock many of the members of the



THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, BUDAPEST.

The City of Budapest

deputation were to be found at the Grand National Opera House, where boxes had been reserved for them on the grand tier to hear "Lohengrin" performed. The singing and acting were extremely spirited. The choruses were considered by the musical critics of our party to have been admirably sung. The part of Lohengrin was sung by the famous German, Herr Anthes, the singing of whose part in Italian, while the rest sang in Magyar, in no way impaired the enjoyment of a brilliant performance. Some of the party were sorry when at eleven o'clock, the opera still unfinished, the time was called to hurry off to the Park Club, a luxurious house on the outskirts of the town, where the guests were received by Countess Károlyi, attended by her husband, Count Stephen Károlyi, and many other distinguished Hungarians. Tea and rum, after the Hungarian fashion, was served; but rum was not compulsory in the case of the English visitors. After an hour spent here in delightful intercourse, the guests left the Park Club and drove back through the now deserted streets to the Hotel Hungaria, the drivers taking advantage of the comparative solitude to drive at a pace that would have been sworn to as

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dangerous to the public by the most truthful even of British constables. Then supper at the Hotel Hungaria for those who wished it, and “so,” as Pepys says, “to bed, well-nigh weary.”

CHAPTER VI

THE CONFERENCE ON LABOUR LEGISLATION AT THE INDEPENDENT CLUB



CHAPTER VI

THE CONFERENCE ON LABOUR LEGISLATION AT THE INDEPENDENT CLUB

MONDAY, September 24th, saw the culmination of the visit of the Eighty Club to Hungary. The afternoon was occupied by the Conference on Labour Legislation. The evening saw us enjoying the Club's hospitality at a banquet.

The Independent Club occupies a fine suite of rooms adjoining the Hotel Royal at Budapest. Here the Conference was held. Originally fixed for 10 a.m., it was postponed till the afternoon, in order that Mr. Francis Kossuth, who had been indisposed, might attend.

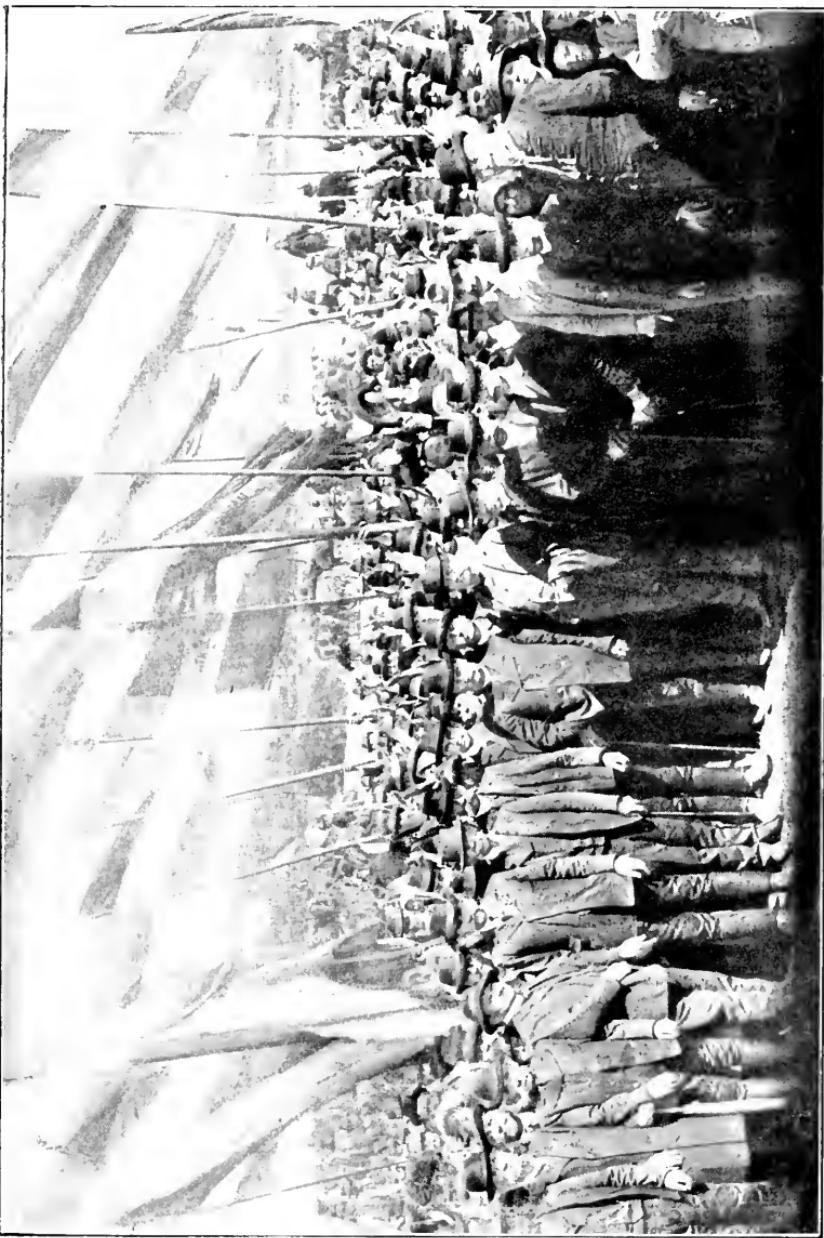
When Mr. Kossuth entered and took his place on the platform to preside he was loudly cheered by the large assembly present. All the members of the Eighty Club Deputation were there, and many Hungarian Deputies and public men,

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most of them members of the Independent Club. It was an indication of the number of those to whom the English tongue is familiar among the public men of Hungary that the proceedings, which were entirely carried on in English, were attended by so many Hungarian gentlemen, who sat through the whole of the discussion, lasting several hours.

Among the company present were the following gentlemen: Count Albert Apponyi (who sat on the platform with the President), Mr. Toulmin, M.P., Sir Chas. McLaren, M.P., and Mr. Walker, M.P., Mr. A. Günther, Mr. J. Szterényi, Mr. J. Tóth; also Count Stephen Károlyi, J. Sághy, Dr. B. Földes, Mr. E. Nagy, T. Szokol, S. Kussko, Zs. Szász, J. Lesskay, C. Pogány, M. Szunyog, L. Kállay, M. Szatmári, E. Németh, C. Párday, L. Hédervári, J. Hódy, A. Somogyi, A. Éber, Z. Szentkiralyi, J. Simkó, E. Berzsenyi, J. Madarász, jun., E. Barna, B. Kubik, H. Laehne, L. Tolnay, L. Halász, B. Kelemen, M. Balogh, A. Gáal, J. Benedek, and Francis Hermann.

In opening the Conference, His Excellency Mr. Francis Kossuth used words to this effect: "Gentlemen, I am fulfilling a pleasant duty in greeting you here in the Club of the Parlia-



SCENE AT THE ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE INDEPENDENT PARTY, HUNGARIAN GENERAL
ELECTION, 1906.



Conference on Labour Legislation

mentary Independent Party. I feel at once that my words of greeting go forth to friends; for we are bound by common aims and feelings. We are both fighting for the same ideals of Liberalism and of democratic progress. Our exiles of the fight of freedom went to England in 1849, and there found the friendship of leading politicians of England in that day, Cobden and John Bright. You, gentlemen, are the heirs of these men and inherit their political ideas. That is why we so rejoice to have you among us. We form the majority of the Parliamentary representation of the Hungarian people, and as such we greet you here. We bid you a hearty welcome to the useful work of this common Conference."

Mr. Kossuth's opening words were received with an enthusiasm and interest that marked the whole Conference. He then proceeded to read his own contribution. In that singularly easy and graceful speech of a foreigner who has perfect mastery of English yet uses it with a literary rather than a colloquial touch, and with an accent perfect in refinement yet not that of the ordinary Englishman, Mr. Kossuth read his paper, which was entitled—

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LABOUR LEGISLATION AND SOCIAL REFORM IN HUNGARY.

Paper read by His Excellency Francis de Kossuth, Royal Hungarian Minister of Commerce, at the Conference held on the 24th of September, 1906, on the occasion of the visit of the Eighty Club to Hungary.

I shall attempt to sketch, in great outlines, the labour legislation and social reform carried out in Hungary, *i.e.*, legislation concerning the protection of women and children in factories, the hours of young workers, arbitration between employer and employed, the observance of Sunday rest by our industries, compulsory insurance against loss of wages through sickness, compensation for injuries to workmen, and all other labour questions.

After a depression of her trade for many centuries, Hungary did not begin to show signs of an industrial regeneration until the time of Louis Kossuth; and simultaneously, in 1840, the first Hungarian Factories Act was passed, the provisions of which are as follows:—

Children under 12 can be employed in such trades only as do not endanger their health and physical development.

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All young workers between the ages of 12 and 16 may not work more than nine hours a day, the working day to include at least one hour's break.

Ordinary labourers must be paid weekly: eight days' notice must be given to ordinary and skilled labourers, except in cases where a special contract exists.

In 1872 a further law was enacted, dealing with the same questions, extending and modifying the provisions of the Act of 1840. This Act forbids the employment of children under 12, and divides the "under-age" hands into two classes. Those between the ages of 12 and 14 may only work eight hours a day; while those between the ages of 14 and 16 may be employed for ten hours, it being stipulated, however, that neither of the above classes may be employed in any trade injurious to health and physical development.

Children under 14 may not be employed for night work (*i.e.*, between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.); and even in the case of hands belonging to the second class (14-16) the Act provides : (1) that night work is allowable only in such trades as require uninterrupted activity; and (2) that only one-half of the daily maximum of ten hours shall be spent in night work.

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These provisions of the Act were repealed by a Bill projected by Government and passed by Parliament in 1884. By the enactments of the same a boy under the age of 12 cannot be apprenticed, all apprentices being engaged by special agreement to be ratified in the presence of the competent authorities. Where the number of apprentices amounts to 50 the community is bound to open a school for apprentices, to be attended by the same for at least seven hours a week, for the observance of which rule the employer is responsible. An apprentice cannot be employed for more hours a day than the "under-age" hands, viz., between the ages of 12 and 14 for six hours, over 14 but under 16 years of age for ten hours a day. In Class I. (12-14) night work is forbidden; in Class II. (14-16) allowable only for a period not exceeding one-half of the working day.

Neither the Act of 1872 nor that of 1884 restricts the "liberty of contract" of workmen; but both stipulate for the following periods of rest, viz.: half an hour in the forenoon, one hour at noon, and half an hour in the afternoon.

The conditions for the ending of any such

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contract are left to be decided by mutual agreement between the contracting parties, the only stipulation being that not less than fourteen days' notice be presented.

The Act of 1884 specially protects female labour in that it exempts women from work for a period of four weeks following confinement, without any suspension of the contract.

The laws of 1872 and 1884 deal with most questions concerning employment and labour in general, particularly safeguarding the workmen against unfair wage-deductions.

These laws may be called what is known in British Legislation as the Truck Acts. Both Acts intend to prohibit the payment of wages otherwise than in current coin, and this principle is secured against infringement by a number of provisions making illegal any agreement between the employer and workmen as to the place at which or manner in which the wages shall be spent, and preventing the employer from supplying goods to his workmen on credit.

These clauses are directed, in close resemblance to the English Truck Acts, against the "tommy shop" system, where the employer compels his workmen to spend their wages at a

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shop kept by himself and on goods supplied at exorbitant prices. Exception to the general rule the issuing of "Johnny's banknotes," or cheques which are only taken for payment at the employers' shops.

It leaves the breaking of the contract dependent upon the free consent of the parties concerned, and stipulates only subsidiarily the term of notice of the agreement or contract to be fourteen days.

The Act of 1884 protects female labour and at the same time exempts them from their work for a term of four weeks after their confinement without their damaging the contract.

The Act further provides for arbitration between employer and employed in all cases of labour disputes.

To this end a Board of Arbitration, presided over by some delegate of the authorities and consisting of six representatives of the employers and six representing the workmen, drawn from the trade immediately concerned, is provided.

If the negotiations of the Board lead to no result, the industrial surveyor of the State is called upon to intervene and attempt to make peace.

Though not directed to do so by any law,

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successive Hungarian Governments made an attempt to settle trade disputes by appointing what should be properly styled a Special Conciliation Committee, with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce in the chair. It has not been a submission by the parties of the controversy to a third party for decision, and therefore it was not an arbitration in the proper sense of the word; but it was mediation and conciliation under the authority of a member of the Government.

After an ineffectual negotiation with the employer and a breakdown of the intervention of the factory inspectors, this method of conciliation turned out to be a success in two conspicuous cases not long ago, when the trade disputes in the masonry and milling industries were settled amicably.

The Ministry of Commerce annually issues systematic statistics of strikes and lock-outs arranged on the basis of data furnished by the industries concerned.

An Act of 1903 stipulates for the appointment by the Ministry of Commerce of factory inspectors, and settles the sphere of legislation which factory inspectors are called on to administer.

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This Act also specifies those duties of the employer to the employed regarding health and physical safety.

The Act further empowers the Minister of Commerce to issue decrees providing for special preventive measures adapted to the necessities of the various trades. Such measures are in force at present in match factories and in all establishments concerned with the production of hides and furs. This Act insists upon the employer notifying the authorities of any accident resulting in a disablement of more than three days' duration.

All factories regularly employing not less than twenty workmen, as well as those which, however small the number of hands engaged, utilise any kind of machinery propelled by steam or other natural power, or by animals, are put under the control of factory inspectors.

The industrial control is organised on a territorial basis. Hungary is divided into industrial survey districts, each of which is controlled by a factory inspector, who is aided by the necessary number of assistants. At present there are 37 inspectors, a number which will be increased to 64.

The duties of industrial survey are in the

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hands of 57 trained officials, who in 1905 inspected 6,565 industrial establishments. A detailed account of their work is sent in yearly by the factory inspectors, whose reports have to be submitted to Parliament.

Previous to the initiation of the principle of industrial survey, two Acts were passed in 1891 dealing with questions of vital interest to social politicians, viz., Sunday rest and insurance against sickness.

Act XIII. of 1891 makes Sunday rest obligatory for all industrial and commercial establishments, recognising also August 20th, the day dedicated to the memory of St. Stephen, the first King of Hungary, as a public holiday, cleaning and repairs alone being excepted.

Work must cease at 6 a.m. on Sundays, and must not be resumed for 24 hours. The Minister of Commerce is, however, empowered to make exceptions in all cases where the interruption of work is unfeasible, where the demands of the public will not admit of an interruption, or where a break in the continuity of trade activity would be detrimental to strategic or other common interests. In any case employers are bound to give their

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workmen one whole Sunday a month or half a Sunday fortnightly.

On the basis of this legal power decrees are issued which secure a suspension of industrial activity in practically the whole country. In all industrial establishments where a cessation of work is impossible the workmen are entitled to at least one day's holiday every fortnight; while, with the exception of victualling stores, one part of which may not remain open after 10 a.m., all trading establishments must cease work entirely.

The question of Sunday rest is one which is at present engaging the particular attention of shop assistants, who insist on the universal adoption of the principle. The question is now pending, and will be settled by the new Industrial Law.

The Hungarian law providing for insurance against loss of wages from sickness was passed in 1891. This law bears a close resemblance to the legislation on the same subject in Germany and Austria, and is based on the principle of compulsory insurance, the cost of the insurance being borne by employers and workmen, in the proportion of two-thirds by the workmen and one-third by the employers. The contributions

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to the sick insurance funds vary between 2 and 3 per cent. of the daily wages.

The law applies to persons employed in all industrial establishments whether machinery is used or not, mines, quarries, smelting works, dockyards, railways, building operations, transportation of goods by land or water (excepting those under the maritime law). The law, however, applies to workmen only in so far as their daily wages do not exceed 8 crowns (6s. 8d.), and to administrative officers only in so far as their yearly pay does not exceed 2,400 crowns (£100).

The administrative machinery instituted for carrying out compulsory insurance against sickness is based partly on guild organisations already in existence covering many branches of industry and mining, partly on recently established insurance associations, closely resembling the Austrian Bezirkskrankenkassen.

Insurance against sickness entitles the insured to the following indemnity : (a) during the incapacity of the insured to work, but for a period of not longer than 20 weeks, gratuitous medical attendance, medicines, &c. ; (b) after the third day of the sickness, but for a period of not more than 20 weeks, a regular payment to the insured

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of not less than 50 per cent. of his ordinary wages. There are special provisions for women and for indemnity to the survivors in case of death.

The law provides further for the administration and supervision of the trade and insurance associations and for the machinery of settling disputes.

The scheme of the Hungarian Bill for providing compensation for injury to workmen caused by accidents in the course of employment is at present under discussion, and is based on the principle of compulsory insurance; it creates no liability as between the injured workmen and their employer, except in the one case of the employer having been found criminally liable for the accident.

As is well known to you, European legislation is based on one or other of two principles, namely: (1) the principle of compulsory insurance. German legislation is the prototype of the laws of those countries which have adopted as the basis of their legislation the principle of compulsory insurance, when the workman has the security of the funds of an assurance association whose solvency is carefully secured by legislation and guaranteed by the State. The

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Hungarian Government Bill is merely a copy of the Bismarckian laws, with more or less local colour added and with more or less important modifications in the structure of that assurance association, and the one striking difference that compulsory insurance against sickness and against industrial accidents are dealt with in one and the same law and by the same institution called the National Bank for the Insurance of Workmen against Accidents.

The other principle is (2) that of the personal liability of the employer to compensate the workman, and the Act of the United Kingdom of 1897 affords the most striking example of complete reliance on the principle of the personal liability of the employer, when the workman can look only to his own employer for compensation, and has practically no other security, though in most systems based on the liability principle, he has certain preferential rights against the property of his employer.

There were many opinions as to which of these two principles should be adopted as basis of the Hungarian legislation ; but owing to the feeling that State control is indispensable in these matters, the German system of compulsory insurance institutions has been adopted

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in the end, though the Bill has not yet been passed by Parliament.

According to the scheme now under consideration the machinery for carrying out the provisions of the Act will consist: (1) of the National Bank for the Insurance of Workmen against Accidents, and (2) of the local trade and insurance associations, which will be endowed with full powers of administration of the law within an appointed sphere, the representatives of the workmen being elected on the board in *equal* numbers with the employers. The whole pecuniary burden of the statutory compensation for accident is cast upon the employers: a considerable portion of the loss of wages caused by accidents falls, however, upon the sick fund, to which in the future workmen and employers are to contribute in equal proportions; hence an *equal representation* of both parties on the boards of administration and arbitration.

The provisions of the Bill as regards the classes of workmen affected by the law, the persons entitled to receive compensation, the amount of compensation payable and the method of payment, and the provisions providing for security of the compensation payable

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under the laws, are, in the main, based on the German laws of 1883 and 1884. Omitting, therefore, the more or less important details of the law, I would merely state that as regards the amount of the compensation the Bill provides in case of total disability 60 per cent. of the annual earnings, and in case of partial disability a portion of it, to be calculated according to the degree of disability. Neither seamen nor agricultural labourers are included, a special National Bank for Agricultural Labourers and Servants having been formerly established by our Board of Agriculture under the law of 1900.

I may add that the Hungarian Government have the intention to pass supplementary laws providing for losses from *old age and ill-health*, on the same principle as in Germany and Austria.

As for agricultural labourers, a National Insurance Institute was established by an Act of 1900 which includes all labour, both male and female, employed in agriculture. It is not, however, based on compulsory insurance, as the employer is, except in one case to be mentioned hereafter, under no obligation to insure the employed. Any agricultural labourer between the ages of 14 and 35 may join the Institute, which

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is practically a branch office of our Ministry (Board) of Agriculture, and is supported by State subsidy.

The ordinary members are divided into four classes. In Class I. the weekly contribution is 20 fillér (= 2d.), that of Class II. 11 fillér, that of Class III. 5 fillér, and that of Class IV. 10 fillér (= 1d.).

Extraordinary membership may be obtained by any labourer, male or female, who remits one crown (= 10d.) annually in fees.

The "sick-aid fund" provides the following assistance:—

1. Class I. In case of accident, gratuitous medical attendance, medicines and surgical appliances. A labourer who, in consequence of a disablement, is rendered incapable of earning more than one-half of the daily wage allocated to him is entitled to receive, for a period not exceeding 60 days, a daily allowance of one crown; a disablement continuing over this period is met by a grant of 10 crowns monthly covering the entire illness. In case of death by accident a final payment of 400 crowns is made to the family; if there is no family, a sum of 100 crowns is set aside for funeral expenses. Any member who has been on the books of the

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Institute for at least 10 years, and is, for any reason whatsoever, rendered entirely incapable of work, is entitled to receive a sum of 10 crowns monthly for life or till such time as he may recover his capacity for labour. Any member who has not called upon the funds of the Institute receives, at his 65th year, a sum of 100 crowns. The family of any member of this class who dies from causes other than accidental is entitled to 200 crowns after 5 years', 250 crowns after 10 years', and 270 crowns after 15 years' membership.

2. Class II. The ordinary members of this class receive, in case of disablement or death by accident, the same assistance as those of Class I. In other cases the sum received is only half of that granted to members of Class I.

3. Class III. The members of this class insure merely for their families, and the extent of the assistance received depends upon the age of the member at the time of joining the Institute. The assistance fluctuates between 60 and 200 crowns.

4. Class IV. The members of this class insure for a certain sum payable either to themselves or their assigns on the attainment of a certain age. Here again the extent of

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the assistance, which fluctuates between 65 and 215 crowns, is dependent upon the number of years of membership.

In regulating the legal status of agricultural labourers in Hungary, special heed was paid to the peculiar agricultural conditions of the country and to the fact that agriculture is one of the most essential factors of national production.

The legal relation of employer to employed is determined by Act of 1898, which decrees that all casual agricultural labourers (permanent labourers are regarded as domestics and are subject to other legal statutes) must possess certificates. The object of this measure is to control agricultural labourers, and the certificate in question answers the same purpose as the "work-book," which every industrial worker is obliged to possess.

The general principle of the law is freedom of contract; but, in order to protect workmen, it provides for the compulsory inclusion in the contracts of certain prescribed conditions; *e.g.*, harvest contracts must specify the kind of corn and the approximate extension of the territory. Apart from the stipulation for a certain proportion of the crops, the labourers are entitled to

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claim a certain weight of corn, or, as an alternative, a cash payment. Should the employer undertake to board his workmen, the contracts must specify the cash value of the daily board. The truck system is prohibited, and the employer's right of retention is restricted. As is well known, the employer is entitled to withhold wages or other dues, securities or movable goods, to cover the extent of damage done by workmen, but is bound to present a claim to the proper authorities within three days of the retention. The authorities are to decide the amount of the indemnity to be paid, and the employer cannot have recourse to any other method of satisfying his claims.

The socio-political legislation of Hungary is still further marked by Acts relating to public sick-nursing and the State care of children of minor age. Act XXI. of 1898 instituted a new form of taxation, that for the maintenance of public sick-nursing. Out of this sprang a National Hospital Fund, the basis of which was the uniform distribution of the expenses incurred by public sick-nursing among the whole population of the country, the amount levied being 5 per cent. of the ordinary direct taxes. The importance of this institution is seen in

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the fact that all the taxpayers are enlisted in the service of humanitarianism. The National Hospital Fund covers the expenses of treating impecunious invalids, part of the expenses incurred in connection with the measures taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases (cholera and the plague only excepted), as well as the expenses of midwifery in the lying-in hospitals and of nursing new-born infants. The State bears in full the expense of treating indigent sufferers from venereal diseases or trachoma, whether lying-in hospitals or medical establishments other than hospitals, or treated privately by order of the authorities ; provides for the care and treatment of the penniless lunatics ; for protective measures against cholera and the plague ; for the gratuitous treatment of indigent patients in the University hospitals and midwifery schools ; in short, the Hungarian State does more than any other country in the interests of public health and sanitation.

The National Hospital Fund has still another function of paramount importance, viz., that of meeting the expenses of the treatment and education till their fifth year of foundlings and children who have been abandoned. The term “abandoned children” embraces : (1) those aban-

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doned in public places, *i.e.*, so-called foundlings ; (2) those orphans for which there is no room in the orphanages ; (3) the children of invalid or imbecile parents who are consequently thrown upon the authorities ; (4) finally, those whose relatives are unable to support them without endangering their subsistence.

Such foundlings, &c., are placed in the children asylums provided by the State. At present eighteen asylums exist ; only those children requiring special treatment and medical care are made permanent residents.

The above comprise the most important *socio-political* legislation hitherto enacted in Hungary.

This *r  sum  * is confined entirely to legislative measures, no mention having been made of the very important outside organisations initiated by Government and society for the public good, as, for example, gratuitous registry offices, &c.

But this must not be taken as a final solution, for Hungary, of the socio-political problems, as many of the latter have been solved in the form of new measures to be put shortly before Parliament.

Some of these problems are to be met by the new Industrial Law, to be drafted by next year,

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which is to restrict female night work ; to protect children and workers of minor age ; to regulate the legal status of industrial and commercial employees ; to introduce the principle of labour representation hitherto unknown in Hungary ; to institute industrial and commercial courts on a basis of complete parity to settle disputes between employer and employed ; and, finally, to solve the strike question by securing on the one hand the right to strike, but on the other protecting workmen willing to work and ensuring them against the terrors of unlawful picketing.

Another object of the Hungarian Government is the organisation of gratuitous Labour Bureaus throughout the country, to be controlled either by the State or by the various parishes ; and they intend to extend the system already existing in Budapest of State pawnshops, which, not being based on the principle of greed and gain, are destined to prove of infinite value to the poorest class of the population.

Finally, I must mention two projected measures of prime importance. Firstly, in carrying out general reforms of taxation, means will be found to lighten the burden of the poor by exempting from taxation all whose income does not

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exceed the minimum essential to subsistence. Secondly, the institution of homesteads, initiated by the United States and adopted by Great Britain under the Small Holdings Acts, is to be introduced with a view to improving the lot of peasant proprietors. The Bill dealing with the latter admits of the building of a homestead on an unmortgaged freehold property of a value of not more than 8,000 crowns. There are no special formalities to be observed ; a verbal notice of the intention to build delivered at the estate office will suffice. The homesteads are to enjoy all kinds of legal privileges. The homestead itself is ensured against distressment.

These measures, which are already in course of being drafted, are to be enacted in the immediate future.

By the introduction of the same as well as of the new electoral law Hungary will be entitled to rank with those States which, in the field of socio-political legislation, are in the forefront to-day.

At the conclusion of this paper Mr. Newbolt, on behalf of the Eighty Club, asked for permission to print and circulate it in England. This was readily granted.

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Mr. Toulmin, M.P., then followed with a paper on—

SOCIAL LEGISLATION AND THE LABOUR- ING CLASSES IN ENGLAND.

Prefacing his remarks with a reference to the contribution of Mr. Kossuth to the Conference, he continued :—

I am sure I express the unanimous feeling of the members of the Eighty Club present when I say that we have listened with profound pleasure to the comprehensive outline of Hungary's progress in industrial legislation, just given by your Excellency. When I was asked to speak on the subject I had no idea that the debate was to be opened by a great statesman of European reputation. Coming from the county of Cobden and Bright, to whom your Excellency referred, I feel the honour of occupying this position. The name of Kossuth is remembered with honour and reverence in Lancashire. Your Excellency's challenge that "the Hungarian State does more than any other country in the interest of public health and sanitation" is a bold one, which will be repeated in England. It is a field of strife in which there will be no wounded, whoever may be the victor.

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What we have learned to-day will be spread among some of our most active politicians and in scores of constituencies. We appreciate the compliment of the choice of subject, which involves some of the chief objects of the Liberal Party. Labour problems loom large in Parliament at present. Not only is there in power the Liberal Party, which in the past brought forward measures extending the franchise and elevating the status of labour, but there is a group in the House of Commons of thirty members forming a separate Labour Party. Not all Labour members belong to the Independent Labour Party, for a score of Liberals are Labour members, though not one Conservative. To understand the forces of the Labour movement we must understand the power of Trades Unions, for in them the core of the Labour strength is to be found. In 1900 there were 1,300 societies with 1,900,000 members. One hundred societies had two-thirds of the members and an annual income of £2,000,000. They include the great staple trades of the country. Mining, metal-working, shipbuilding, engineering, and textile trades are united and federated in powerful Trades Unions. In the cotton trade it is especially noticeable that more than half the members are women.

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This vast body of labouring class opinion, better organised year by year, and its ideas spread by a cheap press, is forcing the questions relating to the conditions of work and life of all who labour before the public.

Your Excellency has shown us that you have similar problems here, and that our English legislation is well known to you; in some things you may have learned from us, but from your achievements and the broad liberal programme sketched for coming reforms I am sure we shall be able in turn to profit by your example.

Your Excellency dates back your Factory Acts to the time of Louis Kossuth—1840. We must go back nearly forty years earlier. The century 1802 to 1901 is coterminous with such industrial laws. We have provisions as to dangerous trades, hours of work, and meal-times, Sunday and Saturday afternoon stop, &c. Our regulations, compared with the statement just given, show that our progress has been on lines very similar to yours. We have also regulations as to attendance at school. But here we may well learn from you. None of us are absolutely satisfied with the attendance in school half-time each day of certain children under fourteen employed in factories during

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the other half of the day. The system of apprentice schools—of which we learn you have some 500—whereby apprentices must study for seven hours a week, is well worth consideration in carrying forward education at a period when much is often lost with us.

We are not too fond of State regulations, however, in England, and several of the points mentioned in the speech we have just heard are in our country dealt with solely by private arrangement—for instance, the period of rest for men.

One Hungarian measure mentioned, that of insurance for loss of wages by sickness, trenches on one of the departments taken up by Trades Unions. It is founded here, in Hungary, on guild organisations ; but it also would cover a large class which is not, it must be admitted, in England, in any union, and has many members whom poverty soon overtakes in case of ill-health. At the same time I am not sure that our very independent labourers would like the amount of State supervision which appears to be involved in such a scheme.

The question of compensation for injuries is very much alive with us. A reconstructing Bill, sweeping away many absurd anomalies, such as

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the 30 feet limit of height, is through committee, and must be dealt with in a few weeks. As is our British habit, we have gone by steps, but now are making the bounds of the Act very wide. I note that Hungary has adopted the plan of compulsory insurance — creating no liability towards individuals, on the part of the employer, except where criminally liable. As your Excellency points out, in the United Kingdom the principle is reliance on the personal liability of the employer. I am not sure that Hungary is not right, and that we shall not find that the workman is not perfectly secure, especially in case of small employers, with our system.

Another subject on which we are simultaneously engaged is that which your Excellency describes as the right to strike, and the provisions by which you will seek to secure this and yet provide against unlawful picketing. Picketing has had serious pitfalls for workmen in England. It is said that strikers meeting men going to take their places a score of miles away from the factory may be found guilty of watching and besetting the factory.

By the Trades Disputes Bill picketing is to be legalised. It is to be lawful for the purpose of peacefully obtaining or communicating infor-

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mation, and for the purpose of peacefully persuading any person to work or abstain. As the law stands, two or more persons acting in combination are liable to be sued for certain acts for which they could not have been sued if they had acted independently. This is to be remedied. It is sought also to secure that no action for damages shall be brought against a Trade Union in respect of any act done by any of its members. When Trades Unions were legalised it was not possible to sue them, but a change in legal procedure has made this possible, and laid them open to heavy damages for the error of one agent. All the provisions of this Act are to apply equally to combinations of masters and men. The prudent steps by which the Hungarian Government has sought to minimise strikes by arbitration furnish again a point of similarity. We have no compulsory arbitration. Under the Conciliation Act of 1896 the Board of Trade may direct an inquiry, and under certain circumstances appoint an Arbitrator. Just a year ago one Board of Trade Arbitrator issued an award settling the questions in dispute in the Nottingham lace trade. Many of our great Unions have themselves conciliation arrangements in their Employers' Committees. Their effect is not

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to foment strikes, and the trade disputes during 1905 did not affect 1 per cent. of workpeople. In the cotton trade a great crisis was successfully passed fifteen months ago without Government interference. And agreements as to wages of coal-miners frequently take effect from voluntary action.

Not only in legislation is Government action important. Government contracts are subject to a fair wages clause; and the relations of Government departments to Unions of the men is of much importance. A tendency to stand aloof has been reversed by the Government now in power.

HOUSING.

New problems are presented by the immense growth of cities. When we see the wisdom by which Budapest has been regulated in its expansion we wish we could go back fifty years. Our cities have expanded with insufficient regulation, lack of open spaces, too many inhabitants to the square mile, demoralisation following from over-crowding. Excessive rents paid in order to be near work have depressed the condition of the worker. Pressure for the local authority to build has been great, and large blocks of

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dwellings have been built by the London County Council, and insanitary areas cleared by such Corporations as Glasgow.

Rich as England is, she is faced by the problem of unemployment. During the last sixty years, since the adoption of Free Trade, wages have gone up, the hours of labour down, and the price of the necessaries of life down. The only thing up in the working man's budget is rent. We have in England a unique Poor Law. It is the only land in which every man, woman, or child has the right to subsistence. The condition is " destitution subject to a labour test." We have made great advances in the last twenty years in the administration of the Poor Law; especially in provision for children by boarding out in cottage homes, villages, and schools. But public opinion has ceased to be satisfied with the workhouse method of dealing with adults, and is seeking for some organisation by which fluctuations of trade may be mitigated. The problem may be more acute in England than in Hungary, because in the latter so great a population is on the land.

In England the labourer on the land has no career; it is difficult to get, even to rent, suffi-

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cient land to live on. In Hungary, I read, there are 2,750,000 properties under fifteen acres, a figure which we regard with envy. I learn also that in Hungary there are practically no small tenant farmers, and we recognise the statesmanship of the proposal to root this population of small independent landholders still more firmly on the soil by legislation based on the Homestead Law of the United States. In the Agricultural Museum we saw on Saturday how the resources of the farmer are increased by scientific knowledge and care, by many exhibits. These were most impressive to those who saw them. I speak of this in connection with unemployment because I am persuaded that wise land laws have a great influence. The tendency of great estates to fall into the possession of small farmers, which I have learned is now being manifested in Hungary, is most healthy.

The Government of England is this year devoting £200,000 towards a solution of the problem of unemployment. Labour colonies, public works of afforestation, sea-coast reclamation—many schemes are suggested; *none*, I fear, a perfect cure. This £200,000 is viewed as “totally inadequate” by a section of the

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Labour world ; and the establishment of Labour Bureaux is looked upon as to be carefully watched lest they should “degenerate into agencies whereby employers will secure labour at a lower price.”

There is one aspect of unemployment on which I may not carry all my hearers with me. But undoubtedly in England there is by the inordinate use of alcohol an amazing waste of resources. The great extent of the evil has caused the closest scientific examination. Alcoholic drinks are labelled as dangerous by eminent doctors, and the social reformer has found them his greatest enemy. Its use even as a drug is decreasing, and its therapeutic and prophylactic value is disputed. The chief Labour leaders themselves abstain from its use. No fewer than twenty-five of the thirty Labour members are total abstainers ; they will support the Government in a thoroughgoing Licensing Bill next session.

FREE TRADE.

Mingled with Labour questions in England is the great question of Free Trade. In Mr. Gladstone’s great Budgets the completest Free Trade was realised. He reduced the number of

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articles taxed from eleven hundred to twelve, secured the smallest possible taxes on prime necessities, and banished protective taxes. He left "no taxes which would embarrass one manufacturer to help another." England is the converse of Hungary. In Hungary the majority are engaged in agriculture and kindred pursuits. In England the great majority are in the mining, metal, textile, and other town industries. We cannot have food taxed to protect farmers and starve factory workers. To protect factory workers and not farmers is the grossest injustice. Only under Free Trade could some of our great industries have developed.

The English cotton trade is unique. We import from countries 3,000 miles away £40,000,000 of raw material. We export over all the world nearly £100,000,000 worth of finished goods. Such a trade could only have grown up where every accessory to trade was the best and cheapest. A mill is built at less cost than in France or Germany, and at half what it costs in the United States. Why? Everything is unhampered by duties—iron girders, timber, glass required to build it. Looms and spindles cost less because untaxed,

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and the cost of working is less because leather and all stores used are untaxed.

Similarly with English shipbuilding. The United States inquiry, lately held, shows that shipbuilding is 40 per cent. more costly owing to Protection.

We believe that Free Trade exchange promotes the prosperity of each nation. The English workman who is willing to work for anybody is not willing that the Government should prevent him buying where he likes, and sees no reason why he should not make a deal with the Hungarian wheat-grower. The English farmer sees that if everything he uses is made dearer Protection is of little benefit.

The cry that under this system our trade is going is proved false by the rising trade returns. This year already our exports are £35,000,000 up. We rejoice to find the United States and Germany prosperous. They buy and sell with us. Their good is our good. Our workmen have adopted these principles. They feel that the workmen of all lands are brothers. The devotees of science give their achievements to all lands. The astronomer who examines the infinitely great and the microscopist who studies the secrets of the

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infinitely little, the sculptor and the painter, belong to all nations. It is absurd that the skilful inventor or expert workman of one nation should be considered the enemy of all other nations.

PEACE.

I have a specific message of peace from the workers of England to this and every land. I attribute this holy spirit which animates the workers of England largely to the spirit of Gladstone, the friend of Greece and Italy, of Bulgaria and of Hungary. At the time when this generation of Englishmen were children, Kossuth, Garibaldi, Mazzini were household names. Testimony of this spirit was given at the Trades Union Congress held just before we left England. The representatives of 2,000,000 workmen passed a resolution of peaceful goodwill to the workers of every land. In moving it, Mr. Ward, M.P., said: "It seemed to him that a people or a world, although it might call itself Christian, could scarcely claim to be much removed from savagery so long as its only method of settling international disputes was by the arbitrament of the sword." Another speaker said: "The Trades Congress

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would directly associate themselves with all the Labour organisations all over the world and combine in a Peace Association." The people of England sympathise with the people of Hungary. They recognise, however, that peace, like charity, must begin at home. History would seem to teach that there are wrongs upheld by the sword which only the sword can cure. "Who would be free himself must strike the blow." And only they who love freedom better than life can be true friends of peace. The garments of Peace are only pure and undefiled if she dwells with her sisters Justice and Mercy. The Parliamentary *régime* to which we adhere is diminishing the power of the personal ambition which has so often been the enemy of peace. It is with the greatest pleasure I heard Count Apponyi at the Inter-Parliamentary Peace Congress. I hope Hungary's voice will always be heard there. As I see the marvellous progress of your people, I do not wonder that you face the future in high hopes. It has been a crown of glory to Hungary that she has loved freedom. To every nation that has loved freedom better than life the reward is placed within her reach to be free worthily and nobly. Her reward is, to have power and

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insight to love justice and reason, equal laws and pure administration. May this be Hungary's glorious future, so that, with "a heart at leisure from itself," she may stretch out hands of peace to the troubled peoples around, her great men leaders in science, in music, in art, in all the peaceful industries that make a people happy !

Mr. H. de R. Walker, M.P., came next, but as time prevented his reading the whole of the following paper, he very modestly curtailed it.

NOTES ON THE DEMOCRACIES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

The foreign student who may wish to trace the evolution of English ideas and English aspirations in other portions of the British Empire than the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland should turn his attention to Australia and New Zealand. In India he would find a vast dependency in which a few hundred thousand Englishmen, brought into touch with two hundred and fifty million Mohammedans and Hindoos, have little or no influence upon their religion or philosophy. In the Crown Colonies, such as the West Indies or the

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tropical regions in Africa, the English are again brought into touch with vast numbers of other races, more malleable, it is true, than the inhabitants of India, but at present very little permeated with the principles of English civilisation. In South Africa the English and the Dutch may, it is to be hoped, learn to live side by side as happily as do the English and the French in Canada; but their problems are greatly complicated and diversified by the presence in their midst of several millions of half-civilised blacks. And even in Canada, where the two races, the English and the French, co-operate harmoniously, and where the French are now so little a conquered people that one of their number, Sir W. Laurier, has for ten years successfully held the position of Prime Minister, it is clear that French influences have served to mould the destiny of the country. Indeed, it is only in Australia and New Zealand that we find a population which is almost entirely of British origin. There are no native races of sufficient importance to deflect the line of development, and there have been few immigrants from the Continent of Europe. In New Zealand no less than 97 per cent. of the white inhabitants are stated to have been

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born within the British Empire; and while the proportion is smaller in Australia, where there are few communities of Germans and Italians, the prevalence of English sentiments throughout the sub-Continent has by no means been impaired.

Of what class, then, have been the inhabitants of the British Isles who have emigrated to Australia and New Zealand? On the whole, they may be said to have been *picked* men. For this fact there are three reasons, two of a special and one of a general character. To take the last first: Australia and New Zealand are so far away from the British Isles and the Continent of Europe, and the cost of reaching them is, and has been, so great, that the destitute, whether Englishmen or other Europeans, have not betaken themselves thither, but availed themselves of the cheaper passage to the United States. The special reasons have been these: (1) South Australia and two Provinces of New Zealand were largely colonised by emigrants who had been specially selected and sent out in groups, under the care of the Church of England or the Church of Scotland. (2) The great discoveries of gold which took place some fifty years ago in various parts of Australia, and

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more particularly in the Colony of Victoria, by holding out the prospect of rapid enrichment, tempted many of the most adventurous spirits in England to seek their fortunes in Australia. The more recent discoveries in Western Australia have, however, attracted miners almost solely from the Eastern States of Australia, to whose steadiness and orderliness I am able to bear personal witness, as I visited this goldfield in the earlier stages of its development. To one who had read of the lawlessness of California and the Western States of America at a similar period such a condition of things seemed at once to denote a marked characteristic of the people of Australia. And I may add that subsequent travels in other parts of Australia and in New Zealand only deepened my impression that there is no part of the world where life and limb are so secure, and where there is so much respect for duly constituted authority.

But the duly constituted authority has, of course, the additional claim to popular allegiance in the fact that it is the authority that the people have constituted for themselves. The Federal Constitution of Australia was drafted by Australian statesmen who had met together for the purpose upon the initiative

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of the people and Parliaments of the several Colonies. It was then submitted to a popular vote in the Colonies, and only when it had thus been ratified by the people was it transmitted to England to obtain a final legal sanction as a statute of the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland. This Constitution is probably the most democratic in existence. The Parliament consists of two Chambers—the Senate, representing the States, and the House of Representatives, representing the people of Australia upon the basis of population. But the Senate has little analogy with Upper Houses in other countries. The members of both Houses are paid, whereby no person can be excluded on the score of poverty, and they are elected on the basis of adult suffrage, with the prohibition against voting more than once at any election, even though the elector may have a qualification in several constituencies. In the case of disagreement between the two Houses there is a provision for the speedy decision of the question by a popular referendum upon the matter at issue. The Federal Parliament has, however, only the powers specially delegated to it by the six constituent States, which retain their own separate Parliaments.

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The State Constitutions are less democratic than the Federal Constitution, through no desire, however, of the bulk of the electorate, who, in some of the States, are constantly striving to diminish the power of the Upper Houses, elected upon an undemocratic basis, which they have inherited from times of narrower political liberty. But the Constitution of the Federal Houses shows clearly that where the Australians have the matter entirely in their own hands the vast majority of them elect to live under conditions where political privileges are banished, and where, in the political arena, every adult, whether man or woman, has equal power and equal opportunities.

In New Zealand there has been a similar, though less arduous, constitutional struggle than in some of the Australian States. The House of Representatives is now practically on the same basis as that of the Federal Parliament of Australia. The Upper House, or Legislative Council, previously consisted of persons nominated for life by the Governor on the advice of the Prime Minister, but it was always a weak body. It is a curious fact that in British Colonies a nominated Upper

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House never exercises much authority. This is probably due to the fact that it is a purely artificial creation, and necessarily lacks the prestige, which gives courage to oppose the popular will, that is possessed by bodies like the House of Lords. But the New Zealanders were even so not satisfied, and induced the Legislative Council to accept a law making future nominations for a period of seven years only. A Chamber is thus gradually being evolved of members who will be most chary of opposing the wishes of the people from the fear of failure to secure re-nomination at the hands of the Ministry which depends for its continuance in office upon the possession of a majority in the popular Chamber. Since the Parliamentary institutions have been copied from those of the Mother Country similar relations subsist between the Government and the Legislature in the Federal Parliament and the State Parliaments of Australia.

In the above remarks a brief reference has been made to the Federal Parliament of Australia, the six State Parliaments, and the Parliament of New Zealand. Students may wish to know something of the course of events in each of these eight bodies. But, on the pre-

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sent occasion, I must confine myself to a summary which will give a general idea of the political situation.

The most marked characteristic is the existence and strength of the Independent Labour Parties, not only in all the seven Australian popular Chambers, but even in several of the so-called Upper Houses, more particularly in the Federal Senate. Before saying anything of their programme or performances a few words are necessary as to their origin. Prior to the year 1890 there was scarcely a Labour representative in any of the Legislatures, the Trades Unionists believing in their ability, through the gradual increase in their numbers, to extract from the employers the successive concession of their demands either by strikes or by the threat of strikes. But in 1890 the issue was joined in a great conflict between capital and labour. Throughout New Zealand and the greater part of Australia, strikes, which were especially obstinate in the maritime and pastoral industries, paralysed the life of the community, and the result was the complete defeat of the workmen, carrying with it the loss of the accumulated funds of the Trades Unions. The accepted method had, therefore, failed, and it would cer-

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tainly be impossible to renew the attempt with any hope of success for a good many years. What was, then, to be done? This question was propounded, it should be remembered, by a body of men who had long enjoyed the benefit of universal elementary education; and they soon realised that an approximation, at any rate, to their desires might be won more easily through Parliamentary action under the prevailing system of manhood suffrage. Moreover, as the members of the popular Chamber were paid, they need not make the pecuniary sacrifice which falls, for instance, upon the English Trades Unions which are represented by persons of their own class in Parliament. The new policy was at once adopted, and from 1891 onwards in increasing numbers the direct representatives of Labour are found in the State Parliaments of Australia.

These representatives in each case formed a third party in the Legislative Chamber, and they had to decide what attitude they should adopt towards the other parties. That they should retain their independence was an understood thing; but they might either oppose both the other parties, or they might work with one of them in return for definite concessions, or they

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might even take office with another party if the combined forces would have an adequate majority.

In Queensland the Labour members at first advocated extreme Socialism, and caused the other two parties to unite against them. Subsequently they modified their attitude, and for some years they have shared the seats in the Cabinet, the present treasurer (Mr. Kidston) being a Labour representative, and one of the most respected statesmen in Australia. In New South Wales the Labour members held for many years the balance of power, and, without taking office, and thus assuming a part of the responsibility, supported whichever of the other parties would at the moment make the highest bid for their support. They are now in direct opposition. In Victoria the history of the party has been somewhat similar, though concessions have been wrung rather by threats against the party in power than by a transference of votes. In South Australia Liberalism and Labour have throughout co-operated harmoniously, and they now divide the Ministerial portfolios, the Prime Minister being a member of the Labour Party. In Western Australia Labour has been in power, without any parti-

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cular success or failure, and is now in direct opposition.

In the Federal Parliament of Australia, which, of course, only dates from the consummation of the Federation in 1900, the Labour Party has been faced in the House of Representatives by two other parties of about equal numerical strength with its own. In this condition of unstable equilibrium, each of the three parties has, in turn, held the seals of office, while each has been equally dependent on outside support. The reign of Labour lasted for only a few months, but was sufficiently long to show that it had in it nothing inimical to the welfare of the community. No startling measures were introduced, as would, indeed, have been useless under the conditions attaching to the maintenance of office; nor was there any extraordinary action in the sphere of administration. The worst that could be said against the Labour Ministers was that they were inexperienced; and there was universal agreement that their administration had been high-minded and honourable. Indeed, among their most bitter antagonists, no charge was ever made against the personal honour or uprightness of these men who, risen from the ranks of Labour, for

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a time held in their hands the destinies of the Australian sub-Continent.

In New Zealand the course of political affairs has been altogether different. At the time when the Australian Trades Unionists in the several States were seriously attacking the problem of direct Labour representation there was in power in New Zealand a Liberal Ministry with very advanced views which was able to convince the working classes that they had more to gain by co-operation within its ranks than by the formation of a separate political organisation. At the present moment there are signs of the creation of an independent Labour Party; but for nearly fifteen years, under the administration of the late Mr. Seddon, a long series of advanced measures was placed upon the Statute Book with the support of all the more progressive sections of the community. These measures differed in no material respect, except, possibly, in being even more radical, from those secured, by one or other of the methods described above, by the Independent Labour Parties in Australia; and it is therefore possible to give a general summary of the trend of the legislative activity in the two countries. At no time, either in Australia or New Zealand, has there been any

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sign of revolutionary Socialism, which would gain no adherents where the political institutions are such that, provided that a man can convince a majority of his fellows, his cause is as good as won. Nor is much heard of the extreme Socialistic theories that involve the nationalisation of all means of production and industry. No doubt they are preached, as pious aspirations; but the Australian working man is a practical person, and does not scorn what is immediately practicable because it fails entirely to satisfy his desires.

What, then, are the main ideas that have inspired the working classes of Australia and New Zealand in the sphere of legislative activity? I purposely use the general term "working classes," as the ideas which I shall briefly describe are shared by many who do not belong to the Labour Party, and would indignantly repudiate the suggestion that Socialism, in the accepted sense, is their ultimate ideal.

First. Virtual monopolies, such as railways, telegraphs and telephones, should be in the hands of the State, and be worked for the benefit of the community as a whole. The vast majority of the railways are State-owned,

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and many of them return a substantial profit after payment of working expenses and the interest on the cost of construction. To an inhabitant of the Continent of Europe who is accustomed to the State-ownership of railways State Socialism may not seem to be involved therein ; but he may be reminded that, in other areas of colonisation by the Anglo-Saxon race, such as the United States of America and Canada, practically all the railways are in the hands of public companies.

Secondly. There is a strong belief in the efficacy of State action. This is seen, in its most extreme form, in the Arbitration and Conciliation Acts which have been passed by the Federation of Australia, and by several of the Australian States and by New Zealand. By these measures, to give the merest summary : When a conflict is pending between employers and employed the employers may not dismiss their men, nor may the men throw up their work, until the matter in dispute has been referred to an arbitral tribunal presided over by a judge of the Supreme Court. And this tribunal, after hearing evidence on both sides and taking all the facts into its consideration, may actually make an award for a stated

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period which has the force of law, and must be obeyed by both employers and employed, under penalty of a heavy fine, or even imprisonment. These measures are fully explained, and their working is discussed, in Reeves's State Experiments in Australia and New Zealand. Any such attempt on my part would require a paper by itself, and I can only say that so far these measures have certainly not been a failure. In New Zealand, where the Act has now been in operation for more than ten years, the period has been one of ever-increasing prosperity; and the employers have been able to afford the increased expenditure imposed upon them by the awards of the tribunals. What will happen in the event of the inevitable reaction, and when the tribunals accordingly make awards which are less favourable to the employed, it is impossible to say; but the fact remains that, during the whole of this period, there has been no strike among any organised workmen; and it must certainly be a good thing, in the case of an industrial dispute, to bring the two parties together before they have become so much embittered that they are unwilling to listen to reason.

Thirdly. There is an intolerance of the evils

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that are sometimes regarded as inevitable in older countries. For instance, in Victoria, where the capital city, Melbourne, has a large manufacturing population, an attempt has been made, by Wage Boards, to prevent the payment of starvation wages in the industries that most easily tend to sweating. Moreover, the conditions under which women work in certain trades are specially safeguarded. Factory and other social legislation must also be mentioned, but need not be specified further, as it contains nothing particularly characteristic of Australia and New Zealand. But there is special sympathy for the lot of the aged poor who, in New South Wales, Victoria, and New Zealand, receive pensions at the age of sixty-five, as a free gift from the State, and without any previous contribution on their part. The idea is that the respectable veteran of labour has earned the gratitude of the State as much as the civil servant or the soldier.

Fourthly. There is a widespread desire to give, as far as possible, equal opportunities to all, and to adjust the burden of taxation to the capacity of the taxpayer. There are excellent systems of public education, with scholarships which open the doors of the Universities to those

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who could not otherwise afford such a course of training. The desire for equality also precludes preference to any religious denomination, all being equal before the law and equally dependent upon voluntary contributions. Nor are distinctive religious formularies taught at the public expense in the schools. Similarly, the possession of large tracts of land, especially if they are not fully developed, is regarded as inimical to the interests of the community, and the State has taken compulsory powers to acquire such land at a fair price, and subdivide it for closer settlement. This policy has been followed with great success in New Zealand, where the new settlers are helped with loans at a low rate of interest, which have been of great benefit to them, and have hitherto been repaid with praiseworthy promptitude. The land also has been the medium for a characteristic innovation in the methods of taxation. Where there is increase in the value of land it may be due either to improvements effected by the cultivator, or to some outside cause, such as the construction of a railway. In the former case, it is contended, the cultivator should not have his taxation increased, otherwise he will be discouraged from making

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further improvements ; in the latter case, on the contrary, as he has had nothing to do with the creation of the increased value, the community may justly claim to take a portion of it in the form of taxation. And a somewhat similar principle is applied to the assessment of the income tax. An income that is earned is taxed at a lower rate than one which is derived from investments. Moreover, in the case both of the tax on land values and of the income tax most of the Australian States and New Zealand graduate the taxation above a certain figure, upon the theory that a rich man can afford to pay at a higher rate without any inequality of sacrifice.

In conclusion, I am aware that I have been obliged to treat the actual legislative action in the most superficial manner ; but I felt that my remarks would be more intelligible if I occupied some of my time in explaining the political conditions in these two most prosperous communities that owe their existence to the British aptitude for colonisation.

Dr. Béla Földes, who is not only an Hungarian Deputy of the Independent Party, but also a

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Professor of the University, then made (in English) the following speech :—

“ To treat only a part of the great Labour question or of Labour legislation in an exhaustive manner in a few hours is, of course, an impossibility. The discussion in a sitting of two political clubs must also be taken from one—the special political side. It would be of great importance to find the common ruling principles for Liberal and progressive middle-class parties in all countries regarding the Labour legislation of the immediate future.

“ In Hungary, the so-called Liberal Party, who administered the kingdom for more than thirty years, had no great interest for Labour questions. The principle of free competition and of non-interference of the State was for that party a firm dogma. At the time when England had for long renounced the *laisser-faire* principle, and inaugurated the famous reform of the factory system, the economists of that old-world party regarded social politics as the dismal invention of German professors and as a disagreeable thing for the Government. The neglecting of the interests of the labour class was felt especially by the greatest and most important group of agricultural labourers, whose members are over

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one and a half million, and whose situation was, in consequence of the employment of steam power, very bad, as their employment was restricted and their earnings reduced to less than half the earnings of English agricultural labourers.

“ In consequence the Socialistic agitation found a fertile ground. The outbreak of social movements—for a long time unknown in Hungary—was a natural evolution. Then followed the development of Social Democratic organisations. In the recent period this party entered on an ignoble connection with the last unconstitutional Government, and now develops a furious enmity against the present Government and the ruling parties. It is not probable that the tendencies represented by the present rulers of this party will grow very speedily, as these tendencies are incompatible with the strongest feelings of the Hungarian people; moreover, the style of many of their communications and the manner of their fighting will not present great attractions.

“ Our task, the task of our party and of our Government, and, I believe, of all Liberal and progressive parties, is to create all those institutions which are necessary for the physical,

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cultural, and ethical development of the labouring classes. As the modern system of production transforms the great majority of citizens for life into workmen, it is necessary that the conditions of workmen shall satisfy not only the desire of well-being but also satisfy the desire of leisure, of social esteem, of advancing and securing a sound family life. The Liberal Party has—that is my opinion—two great and difficult problems to solve. The first is to moderate the impetuosity of Socialistic parties, who must be convinced that, supposing their platform is to be realised, the realisation can only be by successive steps ; for it supposes a profound transformation of human thought, of human feeling, of human judgment, and human institutions. The Liberal Party will need to create all those institutions necessary in the interest of present justice and future development. That is the one problem.

“ The other problem is to secure :

“ (1) A minimum of civil peace during that long period necessary to fulfil social reforms.

“ (2) The undisturbed continuation of production and consumption.

“ (3) To secure also the dignity of society,

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the continuance of morality amidst the struggle of classes.

“ Socialists of a higher moral sense and culture will accept the opinion that during the struggle of classes both parties—capitalists and workmen—must restrain immoral practices, immoral and violent measures. I do not fear Socialistic propaganda when scientific, but I fear unscientific, low-minded extirpation of the highest sentiments of human nature.

“ I am convinced that as England has in the past given to the world the system of factory legislation and the type of Conciliation and Arbitration Boards, it will also find the best solution for the pending questions, and we will follow England in the way of sound and rhythmical development. Before all we must reform the Workmen’s Employment Act and create a Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

“ The situation in England is now modified, since Trades Unions occupy also the political field ; but the beneficent result is that the conditions of more than two millions of workmen will sustain legal, practical, and orderly transformation, rather than a violent, Utopian, and one-sided materialistic deformation.

“ In this sense, we are very glad that the

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honourable members of the Eighty Club give us the occasion to communicate our opinions regarding the future doings of Liberal and progressive parties in the field of social legislation. I wish that the English Liberal Party—whose honourable representatives we see here—may be the pioneers of further social development and social justice by consequent labours for social reform. The Hungarian party of Independence will follow their steps sincerely.

“Liberal and progressive parties all around the world must take the greatest care on the one side to create a complete system of organisations for the well-being of the labouring classes and the sound transformation of society; on the other side to secure the necessary organisations for social peace, moral intercourse between employer and workman, and a widespread propaganda for sound social ideas.”

Sir Charles McLaren said that he had listened with the greatest interest to the statements of the Minister of Commerce with regard to Labour legislation and Labour conditions in Hungary, and he was glad to think that both Hungary and England were marching along on parallel lines towards these reforms. Personally, as one employing and responsible for the wages

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of nearly forty thousand men engaged in some of the greatest British industries, he had no fear of a social revolution so long as fair and just legislation was passed in the interests of the people. The interests of the working classes were not essentially different from those of any other class, and he congratulated the Hungarian Ministry of the Independent Party in seizing the opportunity of showing the people that they sympathised with their social and economic requirements.

As the Conference had now lasted over two and a half hours, a paper written by Mr. Newbolt was withdrawn, and the meeting broke up.

CHAPTER VII

**THE BANQUET GIVEN BY THE
INDEPENDENT CLUB**

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THE BANQUET GIVEN BY THE INDEPENDENT CLUB

THE central point of the Eighty Club's visit was reached on the evening of Monday, September 24th, when the deputation were entertained by the Independent Club at dinner. This was given at the Hotel Royal, which adjoins the rooms of the Independent Club. After our reception in the Club, where a large number of Hungarian Deputies and other adherents to the Independent Party were present, Mr. Francis Kossuth offered his arm to one of the English ladies and led the company into the dining-room. The following Hungarian noblemen and gentlemen assisted at the banquet : Count Albert Apponyi, Count Stephen Károlyi, Count Theodor Batthyány, Messrs. E. Nagy, A. Günther, J. Szterényi, J. Tóth, A. Balla, G. Tormay, P. Ary, G. Adám, Radó Hazay,

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Losonczy, A. Pallay, W. de Ruttkay, and A. B. Yolland.

The Deputies, who were, of course, members of the Independent Club, included K. Barady, F. Hermann, A. Eber, H. Laehne, J. Márkus, M. Szunyog, A. Szebeny, D. Nagy, E. Nemeth, J. Sághy, J. Simkó, A. Kessits, W. Sümegi, P. Hoitsy, J. Lesskay, E. Nagy, J. Madarász, jun., A. Somogyi, E. Varnay, Z. Szentkirályi, L. Tolnay, J. Ligart, B. Kubik, A. Gáal, M. Lányi, L. Pogány, T. Szokoly, S. Keller, J. Hódy, L. Hédervári, L. Juhász, B. Küffer, J. Zöldy, and K. Jagosits.

Rising, according to Continental custom, before dinner was concluded, Mr. N. Micklem, M.P., proposed the loyal toast, "The King of Hungary," which was honoured by the whole company standing while the band played the Hungarian Hymnus.

Count Stephen Károlyi, speaking in French, gracefully proposed "The King of England," saying that he had made His Majesty's personal acquaintance when he was Prince of Wales, and knew how well disposed to Hungary our King Edward was. This toast was loyally honoured to the tune of "God Save the King."

Mr. Francis Kossuth next rose, and as Pre-

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sident of the Independent Club gave the toast "The English Guests of the Eighty Club." Speaking in English, he said: "I give you the health of our English friends. I thank them that they accepted our invitation to come to Hungary. They came not as mere strangers, but in fullest sympathy as friends; and as still closer friends I trust they will depart. That cannot be otherwise, for the English and Hungarian peoples are sisters in their love of liberty, in their respect for law and justice, and in their determination to protect their rights with patriotic zeal. These feelings have animated our nation in bygone centuries; and we have traversed the same path as the English people, from serfdom to freedom, from poverty to well-being, from the dominion of the sword to the realm of the spirit, the mind and the heart. One of the foundations of the sympathy between Hungary and Great Britain is the similarity of their Constitutions, which have not been imported or copied from foreign models, but are the products of the spirit of the people. These two Constitutions are the oldest Constitutions in the world, and both recognise the holy right of opposition. This right has been eliminated by modern legislation, but still with us, as well as

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in England, it has remained in the national consciousness. This spirit reveals itself in our struggles towards our national goal, which we shall attain, with continuous effort, by constitutional means, and with the consent of our constitutional King the independence of our dear Fatherland. We trust you will follow our battle with sympathy. Now that I come to say 'Goodbye,' this hope fills my breast, that in the future you may be as happy and great and powerful as 'Old England' has been in the past."

To the toast thus eloquently given with evident emotion, Sir Charles McLaren, M.P., spoke as follows :—

"Mr. President, your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have to thank you on behalf of my English friends and colleagues not only for the kind words which have accompanied this toast, and for the enthusiasm with which it has been received, but for the splendid welcome that Hungary has accorded to us all. I wish we spoke your language, so that we might express our gratitude to you in words that you could all understand, but so many of you are masters of the English tongue that I have no hesitation in addressing you in my own language. To many

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of you England is no strange country. You know London as well as we do, you understand our institutions, and the bond of sympathy which is created by this acquaintance with our people is alone sufficient to make us feel at home in your hospitable land. We feel, however, that you have received us not merely as individuals but as the representatives of an influential association of British citizens. We are members of a great and active political club which has done much to create the Liberal Party in both Houses of Parliament as it exists to-day. In the year 1880, after the great Liberal victory of Mr. Gladstone, some of us younger Liberals met together under the presidency of the present Earl Grey, the distinguished Governor-General of Canada, and we formed ourselves into a club to provide political speakers in aid of the propaganda of the Liberal Party. Like Dominican monks our duty was to wander over the land to support those principles of political freedom with which Mr. Gladstone's name will ever be associated, the principles of that party which, under the name of Puritan, Whig, Liberal, or Radical, has existed for more than three hundred years, and has made our country what she is to-day. We

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have in our Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, a man who worthily represents the traditions we uphold. We have long admired your country and your race. We have always been interested in the aspirations of independent nationalities, and have denounced political and racial oppression. Holland and Belgium, Greece, Italy and the Balkan States, have achieved independence with the warmest sympathy of the party whom we represent at home, while in these affairs we rejoice in the support of an *entente cordiale* with France. But above all, the career of the Magyar people has enlisted our sympathy and admiration. We remember that it was you who saved Europe from the Turk. Surrounded by hostile races, you fought for your freedom in every century against foes on every side, even against those who ought to have been your loyal supporters and your friends. And we see you now, strong and bold, firmly established as a nation in the front of European progress and civilisation. In our own day we remember the distinguished exiles who took refuge on our shores after your War of Independence. Louis Kossuth, that great patriot, the brilliant father of the brilliant son who honours us with his presence to-day,

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made England his home. I am proud to think he was the friend of my own family, and my earliest recollections are associated with his never-to-be forgotten name. Like all English boys, I felt the romance of Hungarian history. In imagination I pictured Hungary's beautiful women and its chivalrous men. I thought of it as a land of fertility, of corn, of timber, of minerals, a land of great energy and intellectual power, the home of a people who had produced fighters, poets, and musicians unsurpassed by any other race. And in my visits to your country I have never changed in the admiration with which I regard it. Look at this great city of Budapest, unrivalled in Europe for its rapid growth and the beauty of its architecture. Only a great nation could in so short a time have created this great capital which worthily represents the independence of your country. It is not our custom in England to interfere with or criticise the internal politics of other States, but we of the Eighty Club believe that the Independent Party of Hungary is in sympathy with those great principles which rule English political life. What is the basis of England's greatness ? It is liberty ; freedom of political franchise, freedom of religion, freedom

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of the Press, the free supremacy of the House of Commons, freedom of trade and the recognition of the rights of our Colonies and of every nation to arrange their own affairs. It has taken us three hundred years to acquire and consolidate this freedom, which stands now unassailable and sheds its brightness over all the world. We Liberals are a party of peace: while we hold ourselves prepared for war, we never seek willingly the arbitrament of the sword. We believe in the solidarity of all civilised peoples, and we believe that by intercourse between nations, and especially by commercial intercourse, that solidarity is best assured. Our wishes in England are for closer commercial union with Hungary. In Fiume you have a seaport of your own which is capable of the greatest development, and which gives you a commercial access to every sea. Two years ago I myself entered into negotiations with your Government for creating a naval arsenal on the Adriatic, and I hope that those negotiations may in years to come bear fruit. Before long you will have not only a naval force of your own, but a great mercantile marine, and those of your people who emigrate across the Atlantic will be able to leave from your own port of Fiume instead of

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travelling through Germany to sail by German ships. Already our great Cunard Shipping Company in England is organising this traffic, and this will be followed up by lines of your own. You are already showing your skill and enterprise in engineering. Only four years ago, in response to inquiries from England, your firm of Ganz at Budapest were ready to carry out the greatest electrical undertaking in the world, the electrification of the Metropolitan Railway in London, of which I have the honour to be President. In that capacity I personally was convinced that your system was the best of all that were offered to us, and I have never ceased to regret that through *force majeure* we were precluded from adopting the ideas and inventions that Hungary placed at our disposal.

“Wherever I look I see opportunities for developing the natural wealth and resources of your country. Let me express the hope of all here that this, the first visit of a British political organisation to Budapest, may bear fruit in the promotion of commercial relations between two great nationalities, and thus bind the two peoples with the closest ties. We have also another wish—that we in England may

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soon have an opportunity of seeing you in London and returning in some measure the hospitality we have received at your hands. We hope that members of the Independence Party will honour the Eighty Club by a visit to London. During the recent Inter-Parliamentary Congress in London I had the pleasure of entertaining at my house many distinguished Hungarian members of Parliament in common with representatives of other nationalities. Next year, let us hope, we may receive our Hungarian friends by themselves. We shall thus see more of you and enter into those closer personal relations to which we shall look forward, and which will be a pleasant continuation of the delightful experiences we are enjoying in your beautiful land."

Mr. Arthur B. Yolland, Lecturer in English in the University of Budapest, was next called upon, and in a speech delivered partly in English and partly in Hungarian dealt with the unfair comments which had been levelled against the Eighty Club by a section of the Press. He said they did not disturb his repose, for the English visitors would see how to appraise such remarks at their true value. Then, in response to calls of "Apponyi" from

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all parts of the table, Count Albert Apponyi rose, and though apparently not expecting to be called on to speak, delivered the following address:—

“I could wish that before our dear guests take their departure people in London as well as here would clearly understand what the party of Independence is, and what the Hungarian nation, which finds its aspirations best expressed by the Independent party, really wants. The speech of Mr. Norman very deeply impressed me: the standpoint from which he regarded the solution of our difficulties as important not only for ourselves is absolutely true. History has taught us our responsibility towards the nations, towards the great Western family of peoples: that feeling finds its expression in our policy of Independence. In this part of Europe in which we find ourselves, before our ancestors arrived no nation could found a permanent State. Consequently, Europe was constantly subject to the inroads of Eastern powers. When our race came here, accepted Christianity, and became a member of the family of European people, that danger to Europe was averted. Charlemagne tried to ward off this danger by founding a military kingdom. But his attempt failed,

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because he brought only mechanical force against this danger, and the force of a living organism was wanted. This living force was found in the Hungarian nation. (Loud cries of '*Eljen!*') To preserve this power is our duty, not only a duty we owe to ourselves, but one we owe to the nations of Europe. An organism has its laws which one dare not disregard, or one will destroy it. The Independent Party recognises very well that the form of its action may be altered but its essential duty still remains the same, and that we can better preserve the supremacy of the Western spirit against the spirit of the East when we are in league with Austria than when we stand alone; but we recognise too that a mechanical force, as that of the Austro-Hungarian alliance is, cannot take the place of organic power. We, the Hungarian nation, can never give up as an offering to a mechanical support our existence, the laws of our nation's organic life, and all that flows therefrom, nor the perfecting of our national life. This is the European side of the programme of the Independent Party. To those who insist on our maintaining the position of a great power as it is established by the alliance of Austria and Hungary, I would just say this—



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that great power will only be quite securely established when it has set at rest the national aspirations which exist within it. It has done me good to be able to lay open my heart to you, for I can say from an upright heart there is no falsehood in us! (Cries of '*Eljen!*') I raise my glass to the honour of England."

This spontaneous outburst of Count Apponyi's eloquence made a great impression. The speech became the subject of considerable attention in the press both of Hungary, England, and Austria. It met with favourable comment in some quarters and much hostility in others. The proud national feeling breathing through it is just what critics of Hungarian statesmen cannot or will not understand.

Mr. Hawkin proposed Count Apponyi's health, and Mr. J. Brunner that of Mr. Kossuth, after which M. Z. Szentkirályi paid in Hungarian what we understood to be a warm and eloquent tribute to the charms of the English ladies. The speaker was a young man, a Deputy and a priest, and what he said was enthusiastically received. The Hungarians were much interested as we sang "For he's a jolly good fellow," sung when we toasted Count Apponyi and Mr. Kossuth.



CHAPTER VIII

THE EXPEDITION TO THE CARPATHIANS— THE HIGH TÁTRA



CHAPTER VIII

THE EXPEDITION TO THE CARPATHIANS—THE HIGH TÁTRA

It was impossible in the short time at our disposal to obtain more than a superficial view of so large and interesting a country as Hungary, but it was arranged that we were not to leave it without having visited the wild district of the Carpathian Mountains as well as the historic shores of the Lower Danube. The two expeditions promised a contrast in climate, scenery, and associations of the most inviting kind.

The following extract is taken from the “Tátra Number” of an illustrated paper, *Hungary*, published in Budapest in English:—

“There certainly is one place in Hungary which for generations past has attracted many strangers and tourists, and has developed to such a great extent that we may safely say

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that before long it will be among the world's most fashionable summer resorts.

“This is the ‘High Tátra’ district. Its centre, Tátrafüred and Tátra-Lomnicz, in the beautiful and romantic Carpathian Mountains, a fashionable summer health resort, is 2,830 feet above the sea level; in fact, the highest point in Hungary, a mountain chain rising abruptly from the Poprád plain with its beautiful lakes, valleys, and waterfalls, possessing a singularly attractive natural beauty wholly different from that of the Swiss Alps or the Scandinavian cliffs. It is this beautiful gift of Nature which attracts to these totally new prospects those who may have already seen so much in other countries.

“If we climb into the mountains we meet with groups of tourists of different nationalities, who, arrayed in the conventional Alpine costumes, carrying the so-called ‘Alpenstock’ and a mountain axe, knapsacks to their backs, scale the most precipitous cliffs and chasms. Below, at the foot of the huge mountain chains, in the bathing resorts we see the typical picture of a modern fashionable health resort. Elegant and most comfortably fitted hotels have recently been built at Tátra-Lomnicz, with sanatorium, swimming and electric-light baths; elegant

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villas and private mansions are filled with guests from all parts of the Continent ; the broad drives and promenades are covered with equipages, riders and puffing autos. On the tennis-grounds the ball fairly bounds ; the lawns are covered with young and old, all laughing, smiling, pleasant, chatting, while from the various gardens one can hear the gipsy bands' harmonious melodies. Everywhere happiness, good humour, and gaiety prevail. . . .”

To such a paradise we set off early in the morning of September 25th, with natural eagerness, and it was not until we were well on the way that we realised that the summer season was over, that an “elegant and most comfortably fitted hotel” was being kept open for us, and that the ball no longer fairly bounded as the puffing autos sped.

Several Hungarian gentlemen had placed their time and inexhaustible energy completely at our service during our stay. One of them was so good as to come to the hotel in Budapest to gather the flock for the early train, and although some members were being entertained privately, and one or two were otherwise prevented from joining us, a fair number mustered at the railway station, and were soon comfort-

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ably installed in a special train. In an hour we reached Hatvan, and here we were greeted by some residents. We then proceeded over a vast plain through towns with unpronounceable names to Kassa, with its ancient cathedral. Luncheon followed in a well-supplied restaurant-car and the usual interchange of visits between the "married quarters" and the carriages reserved for the bachelors and grass-widowers.

Having crossed the plain, we ascended the foot-hills and at length came in sight of the mountains, powdered with snow, and found that we had exchanged the early autumn of the city for an Alpine winter. It was almost dusk when we reached Tátra-Lomnicz; the ground was covered with snow, and many for whom carriages were provided preferred a brisk walk up the hill. The Palace Hotel, situated 900 metres above the sea, is a large and handsome building standing on the edge of a primeval forest, facing a wide plain and a distant range of mountains. Behind it rise the chief peaks of the Tátra. On all sides the scenery is wild and beautiful.

We were the guests of Mr. Ignácz Darányi, the Royal Hungarian Minister of Agriculture, but he was unfortunately unable to be present in



Photo by]

[*Mrs. A. M. Bramall.*

TÁTRA-LOMNICZ,

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person. He, however, thought of us, and at dinner the following telegram was received from His Excellency :—

“I am very sorry that I cannot myself be with our dear guests, as I have an official engagement. I heartily greet the ladies and gentlemen, and hope that you may take away pleasant remembrances with you from the High Tátra.”

The Committee telegraphed a suitable reply, reciprocating these polite and friendly expressions. In the absence of the Minister the chair was taken by Court Councillor Deininger, who proposed the health of our King Edward, to which Mr. Priestley, M.P., responded by proposing that of King Francis Joseph.

The health of the guests was gracefully given in English, and Mr. T. R. Bethell, M.P., replied, reminding our hosts that their hospitality to the Essex farmers, who were constituents of his, was warmly remembered. Mr. Alajos Paikert, the Curator of the Budapest Agricultural Museum followed, and during the course of his speech said :—

“There is an island amidst the ocean, small in comparison to the surface of this globe, but immense to all who know its power and

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influence, set apart by Providence in splendid isolation, where those men and women who rule the world by the force of their brain and strength of their character are born, and there is an island amidst the Continent surrounded by high mountains, and beleaguered by the unceasing crushing waves of different nations, holding its rights by hard and innumerable battles, struggling for freedom, progress, and civilisation—just the same as you. The majestic queen of the waves, the mighty sea-island, the centre of the world, sends now here to this humble little land-island amid its high mountains, whose glittering snowy peaks above the clouds are towering here before us all, their brightest men, their fairest queens of beauty and heart.

“I have no words at my command to thank you for your visit to a land reported until the present time to be wild and barbarian. I have no words to say all that I wish. Allow me only to greet you, ladies and gentlemen, who have shown to us the real friendship of Britishers, who have been kind enough to come to our country and to see with your own eyes the progress we have achieved, to feel at least the sincerity of our endeavours.

[*Mrs. A. M. Bretnall.*

LAKE CSORBA IN THE HIGH TÁTRA.

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Photo by



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“I wish, and I am sure it shall be, ladies and gentlemen of England, that this your visit to Hungary will for ever be cherished and commemorated by the Hungarian nation as the beginning of our renaissance, as the beginning of great and victorious common battles for the peace and liberty of all the world.

“To the ladies and gentlemen of England our heartiest welcome.”

Mr. Paikert’s speech, instinct with the poetic imagery of the Hungarians, and admirably delivered in English, struck the keynote of the evening, and indeed of our entire visit.

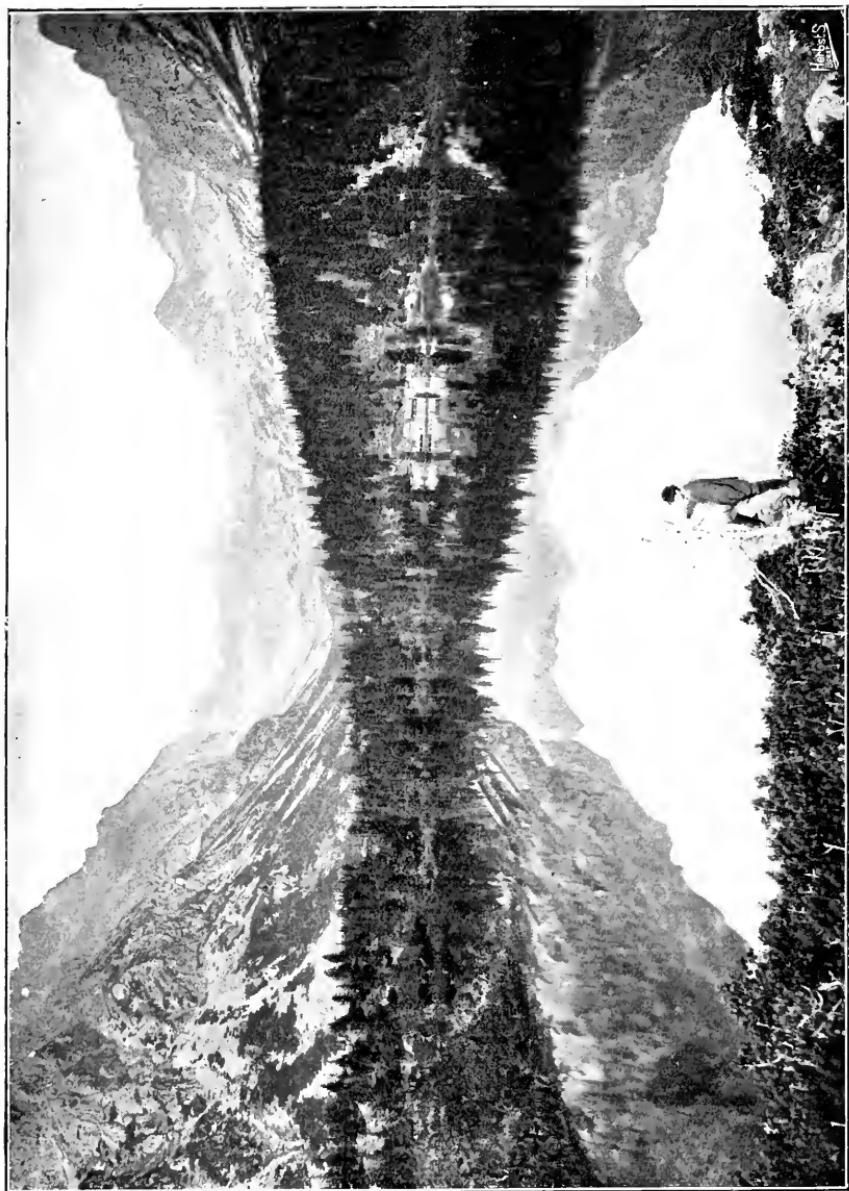
What visions of white Christmases and snowed-up coaches on the Scottish Border passed through our minds next morning as we contemplated the prospect of eighteen miles through mountain forest roads to Lake Csorba ! The wind whirled the snowflakes about the pine-tree tops, and made our hearing reinforce the anticipations summoned up by sight. But our comfort had been cared for in every detail. Double teams of four horses to lead and an array of pair-horse light waggons to follow awaited us, provided by the Tátra Tourist Communication Company. Fur coats, even, were provided, and snugly wrapped up, we

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scaled the mountain side, and wound round the shoulders of the hills, high above the plain, in such jolly fashion that our only regret for the snow was that it hid the distant scene and topmost peaks. Tátrafüred woke up as the procession trotted through, and greetings were waved to us from pretty villas by the road-side.

After Tátrafüred another hour's drive and further climbing brought us to the Csorba Lake, which sprung its beauty upon us only when after passing into the hall of the large and hospitable hotel, we stepped to the wide windows which look directly on the waters close below.

During the afternoon, after luncheon, while the fisherman of the party was being rowed round the lake, and vindicating his sportsmanship by a good basket, the remainder braved the arctic weather and went for a walk. Quite a dozen men ascended as far as Lake Poprád, where the scenery was unspeakably wild and desolate, a black lake in a white silence amid heights impenetrably veiled. At dinner the fish caught during the afternoon were received with a round of applause, and the same interchange of hearty expressions of mutual esteem took place as on the preceding evening, Mr. Lambert speaking on behalf of the deputation.



LAKE POPRAD IN THE HIGH TÁTRA.

The Expedition to the Carpathians

The heights we had ascended in the carriages over many miles were retraced in a short run on a cog-wheel railway, connecting the villas and hotels round Lake Csorba with the main railway on the plain. At Csorba station our special train awaited us, and was very welcome with its steam-warmed carriages. We had left snow on the heights, and down below the ground was hard with frost. The beds were already made up, and we slept while we were transported through the night to Pozsony.

CHAPTER IX

THE VISIT TO POZSONY (PRESSBURG)



POZSONY : VIEW FROM THE CASTLE OVERLOOKING THE DANUBE.



CHAPTER IX

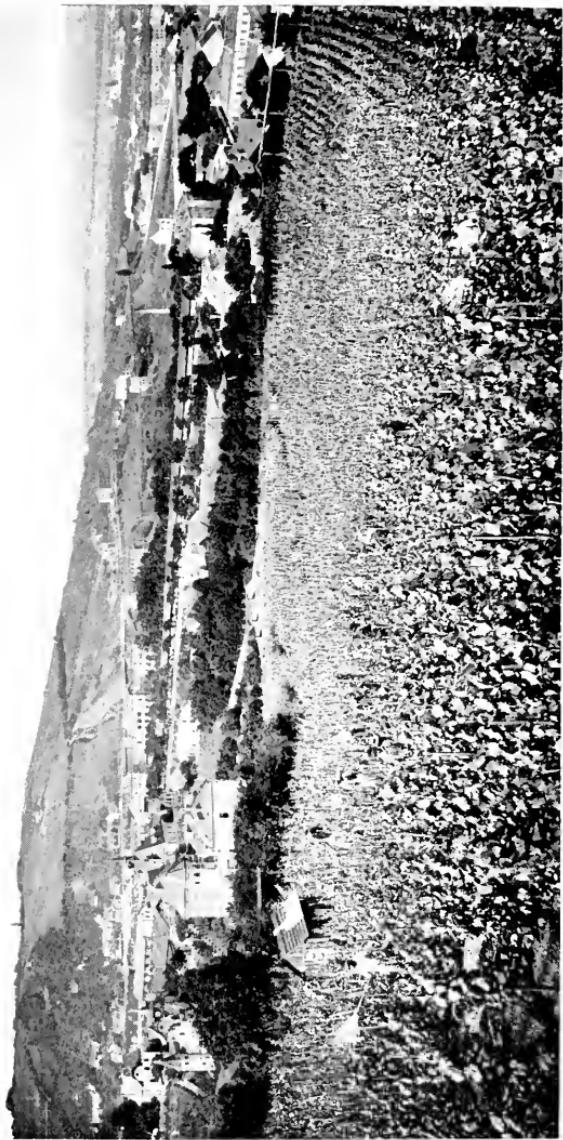
THE VISIT TO POZSONY (PRESSBURG)

OUR special train was due to reach Pozsony about 8 a.m. on September 27th, and punctually to time we drew up at the station.

Pozsony, the German Pressburg, is situated on the left bank of the Danube, about 35 miles from Vienna and a few miles from the Austrian frontier. Little is known of its early history, and the name does not occur before the ninth century. In 1042 it was destroyed by the Germans, but was soon afterwards rebuilt, and for two hundred and thirty years successfully withstood all the assaults of its enemies. It was, however, again taken by the Germans in 1271, the strategic importance of the place causing it to be singled out for persistent attack. When in 1541 Buda was captured by the Turks, Pozsony became the Hungarian capital and seat of the Government,

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and as such was recognised as the most important place in the country. In 1619, during the wars of religion, it was captured by the Protestant forces under Gabriel Bethlen, the famous Prince of Transylvania, but was recovered by the Imperialists in 1621. In 1687 the memorable Diet was held here in which the Hungarians renounced their right of electing their king and accepted the principle of hereditary succession. It was to Pozsony that Maria Theresa fled in 1741 and appealed to the Diet assembled in the Great Hall of the Castle for Hungarian help against the Prussian, Saxon, Bavarian, and French troops which threatened to overwhelm her, and it was here that the assembled magnates made their noble response, “*Moriamur pro rege nostro Maria Theresa*,” and followed it up with deeds of heroism that will cause Hungarian patriotism to live for ever in the pages of history. In 1784 it ceased to be the capital, but nevertheless retained much of its importance as the meeting place of the Diet. Peace was signed at Pozsony in 1805, after the battle of Austerlitz, between Napoleon and Francis I., and Davoust bombarded the town for a whole month in 1809. It continued to be the seat of Parliament until 1848, and



THE VINEYARDS ROUND POZSONY.

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The Visit to Pozsony

was the scene of the great reform debates of the session of 1847–1848, which immediately preceded the Civil War.

It will be seen from the above that Pozsony has been intimately connected with the history of Hungary since the eleventh century, and its position amply explains why this was the case. It stands upon the last spurs of the Carpathians, the natural boundary of Hungary, and thus forms one of the gates through which an invader must pass if he would penetrate into the country. The situation of Pozsony is extremely beautiful. To the south and east, so far as the eye can reach, extend vast fertile plains, through which, like a silver streak, the Danube winds its way; northward and westward are the Carpathians, separating Hungary from the plain of the Marchfeld and Austria. These hills are richly wooded, and what they lack in height is amply made up in picturesque beauty and softness of outline. On one outlying hill in the midst of the town stands the Castle, commanding the Danube, which flows below, and affording protection to the town. This hill is called the Várhegy, and reference will be made again to it when the visit to the Castle comes to be described.

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The present population of Pozsony is about 70,000. The town itself may be divided into four distinct quarters or districts. There is, first of all, the Old Town, with its quaint narrow streets and curious old watch-towers. This forms the nucleus of the present town of Pozsony, and extends round the base of the Várhegy, or Castle hill. Then there is the Ferdinands Town, or New Town, on the north, and the Theresian Town on the west, both of them residential quarters with fine broad streets and handsome modern buildings. The fourth quarter extends along the banks of the Danube, and is known as the Francis Joseph Town. The most remarkable feature of this quarter of Pozsony is the splendid Danube embankment and quay from which the steamers start for Vienna and Budapest. Thus at Pozsony one may see in close juxtaposition the relics of mediæval times recalling almost every stage of Hungarian history and the latest architectural efforts of modern civilisation, and in this respect it was perhaps the most interesting place visited by the deputation during the entire tour.

No sooner had we alighted from our train than we were received by the Mayor, Mr. Theodor Kumlik, with whom were the following gentle-



ST. MICHAEL'S GATE, POZSONY.

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The Visit to Pozsony

men: The Ministerial Secretaries (Dr. Géza Ádám and Dr. Pál Ary), Messrs. Elémer Balogh, J. Baümler, E. Brég, Dr. Edmund Bugel, Prof. Johann Dach, Messrs. F. Duschinsky, Dr. Fabricius, Josef Grüneberg, jun., Karl Grüneberg, jun., Wilhelm Grüneberg, August Günther, Zoltán Jankó, Dr. Jankovitch, Mr. R. Kánya, Dr. Katona, Messrs. Keiss, Kutsera, Ministerial Secretary Losonczy, Vice-Consul E. Ludwig, Messrs. G. Mauthner, Franz von Palugyay, F. von Palugyay, jun., J. von Palugyay, Dr. Karl Ronay, Messrs. J. Ruttkay, Béla Ruttkay, J. Seifert, Dr. Béla Tauscher, Mr. Arthur Tong, Dr. P. Oberschall, Mr. A. Paikert, and Dr. M. Perczel. After an informal reception by these gentlemen, of the heartiest description, we were ushered into one of the large waiting-rooms of the station, where breakfast was promptly served. As we entered the breakfast-room copies of the two principal daily papers of Pozsony, the *Nyugatmagyarországi Hiradó* and the *Pressburger Zeitung*, were handed to each member of the deputation, and upon opening them we were gratified to find that the front page of each contained an address of welcome and much interesting information printed in English for our benefit, together with

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a programme of the arrangements made for the day. The first item in the latter was the formal reception by the Mayor at 10 a.m., and accordingly shortly after that hour we entered the carriages provided for us and, accompanied by several of our Hungarian friends, drove to the Town Hall. Here we were ushered up a flight of stairs to the Council Chamber and were received by Mr. Kumlik, the Mayor, and most of the members of the Town Council. After we had all been personally introduced, Mr. Kumlik made a short speech in Hungarian, bidding us a hearty welcome, and expressing the hope that we should have an enjoyable day. This was responded to in a few well-chosen sentences in English by Mr. N. Micklem, K.C., M.P., on our behalf, and the party then returned to their carriages and drove through some of the principal streets to the brush factory of Messrs. Grüneberg. Here we were received by the two head partners, Messrs. Karl and Joseph Grüneberg, and their sons, Messrs. Joseph, Karl, and Wilhelm Grüneberg. Assembled in the counting-house, we first listened to a short English address from Mr. Karl Grüneberg, sen., and were then conducted through the entire establishment. There are about twelve hundred



HER ROYAL AND IMPERIAL HIGHNESS THE ARCHDUCHESS ISABELLA
IN HUNGARIAN NOBLEWOMAN'S COSTUME.

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The Visit to Pozsony

workpeople of both sexes employed in this factory, and we were informed that although they are drawn from all three of the principal races of this part of the country, Slovaks, Germans, and Magyars, there was never any difficulty experienced in getting them to work harmoniously together. As in most other manufacturing establishments in Hungary, nearly the whole number are employed on piecework, and work for ten hours a day, Sundays only excepted. We passed through a great number of rooms and saw the process of manufacture of almost every conceivable variety of brush, from the earliest stages to the production of the finished article, and before leaving we were each presented with a souvenir of our visit in the shape of a set of tooth-brushes packed in a cardboard box neatly inscribed.

From the brush factory we proceeded to the Isabella Home Industry Society's Depôt in the Stefanie strasse. Here we found an exhibition of Hungarian lace, embroidery, and needlework. The institution is a comparatively new one, and was founded by the Archduchess Isabella with a view to the encouragement of native peasant industry. Its work mainly consists in providing the peasants with good materials, giving instruc-

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tion in the various branches of lace-making and needlework, and ensuring proper remuneration for the workers.

It was considerably past midday before we arrived at the Cathedral, the next point on our programme. This historic church is surmounted by a tower bearing on its summit a gilded Hungarian crown.

We were courteously received by members of the Cathedral Chapter, who conducted us over the church, while the organ played our national anthem. On the eastern wall, we saw the life-size leaden statue of St. Martin of Tours, by Raphael Donner. This curious statue, dating from 1734, represents the Saint in Hungarian Hussar uniform and on horseback in the act of dividing his cloak with a beggar. It is to St. Martin of Tours that the Cathedral is dedicated.

Proceeding thence on foot, we climbed the Várhegy, or hill on which the Castle stands, passing on our way many quaint old houses, relics of mediæval times. At the top a massive stone archway gives access to a terrace, with a wonderful view of the great plain of the Danube on the one side and of the Carpathians on the other. Here Vice-Consul Ernst Ludwig, who was at the time on leave from Pekin, took us



Photo by

| Kozics.

NATIONAL COSTUME FROM PÖSTYÉN IN THE MEGYE
(COUNTY) OF NYITRA.

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The Visit to Pozsony

in charge and explained the historical associations of the Castle. After the Hungarian rising of 1849 the Castle had for a time served as a prison for the two sons of Louis Kossuth, one of whom is the present Minister.

The Castle of Pozsony is a rectangular building with four towers, one at each corner, occupying with its terrace almost the entire summit of the hill. The interior of the Castle itself is now a complete ruin, little save the four exterior walls and the towers remaining intact.

We entered through the great gate and tried to picture to ourselves the scene of September 11, 1741, when the Hungarian nobles greeted Maria Theresa as their "king," but even the position of the Great Hall can now with difficulty be traced.

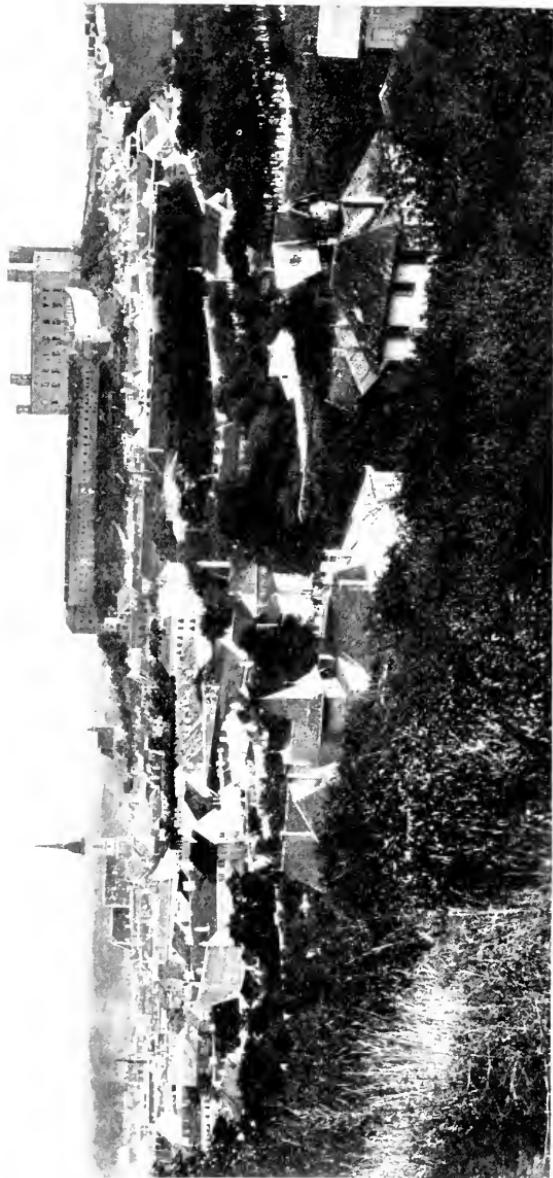
A few fireplaces high up in the wall and great heaps of fallen stones that once formed walls are all that are left to bear witness to the former magnificence of the palace of the great Queen.

We left the Castle and drove to the hotel of the Green Tree (*A zöld fához*), where luncheon awaited us. This was given by the town of Pozsony, and accordingly the Mayor

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occupied the chair. Covers were laid for about sixty-five guests.

The first toast was proposed by Mr. Theodor Kumlik, the Mayor, immediately after the third course. In a felicitous little speech he asked the company to drink the health of the Champion of European Peace, King Edward VII., and this toast was responded to on our behalf by Mr. T. B. Bowring, who proposed the health of the King of Hungary. The Mayor then again rose and gave the toast of "The English Nation," the nation of Shakespeare and Carlyle, of Darwin and Spencer, of James Watt and Stephenson, a nation, moreover, which for Hungary had always shown the warmest sympathy, and had sheltered Hungarian patriots and heroes in the days of trouble and misfortune. The speech was delivered in the Hungarian language, but was translated into English for our benefit. Dr. Marczell Jankovich followed, and proposed the health of the guests in English, quoting Longfellow to the effect that between free nations speech is no barrier, and greeting us as the sons of a free nation. Mr. Murray Hyslop then responded on our behalf, and proposed "The Prosperity of the Town of Pozsony."



POZSONY AND THE CASTLE.

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The Visit to Pozsony

After expressing the thanks of the deputation for the hospitable reception accorded them, he declared that if England was to prove worthy of her past traditions she must ever remain the friend of freedom and champion of humanity. During the visit the deputation had been much impressed with the fresh fields of enterprise which presented themselves to British capitalists by the exploitation of the mineral treasures and natural wealth of the country. The commercial relations already existing between the two countries must be widened, for it was by closer commercial union that nations learnt to understand each other. Mr. Percy Harris followed, and proposed the toast of the Mayor's health. In so doing, he said : "I speak as a merchant trading with the distant colony of New Zealand. That country, acknowledging one King with Great Britain, yet has complete self-government, makes its own laws and frames its own customs tariff. I shall tell my colonial friends what I have seen and heard here. Perhaps trade relations may result." The Rev. Elemér Balogh proposed the health of the ladies in English, and Councillor Duschinsky made a poetical speech half in English and half in German, which deserves special mention.

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The luncheon over, the whole party once more entered their carriages and drove to the Danube Quay. Here we witnessed a procession of six rowing boats from the Pozsony Rowing Club organised in our honour. The Club boathouse on the opposite bank of the river was decorated with flags and bunting for the occasion. On the quay we also saw the fine statue of Maria Theresa by Fadrusz, erected in 1897 to commemorate the loyal support accorded to their Queen by the Hungarian people. The statue is of white marble, and the Queen is represented as advancing on horse-back with a Hungarian magnate on one side and a Kurucz on the other; on the plinth are the words "Vitam et sanguinem." Proceeding, we crossed the iron bridge over the Danube, which also serves as a railway bridge, to the opposite bank, and then returning, drove to the wine cellars of Messrs. Palugyay, which were illuminated in our honour. Here we were received by the heads of the firm, Messrs. Joseph and Franz von Palugyay, Franz von Palugyay, jun., and Anton Palugyay, who conducted us through the cellars and explained the process of wine-making.

In the cellars we were shown some fine wood



THE CORONATION MONUMENT, POZSONY.



A FAMOUS WINE CELLAR, CHATEAU PALUGYAY, POZSONY.



The Visit to Pozsony

carving on many of the vats, which, we were told, was early work of the sculptor Fadrusz.

It was now past 4 p.m., and we were timed to leave for Budapest at 4.30. We accordingly bade farewell to our kind hosts, who entertained us to tea and presented all the ladies with bouquets, and, after a short drive to the station, embarked once more on our special train, which left Pozsony amid the cheers of the crowd which had assembled to bid us adieu. From Ersekujvar, the first stopping station, our Committee despatched the following telegram to the Mayor: "The deputation of the Eighty Club sends its heartiest greeting to their Pozsony friends and warmest thanks for the splendid reception which they will never forget. *Éljen Magyarország.*"

Of the warmth of our reception and of the kindly attention of our hosts this account will have afforded ample proof. The remembrance of our day in Pozsony will long retain a place in the mind of each member of the party privileged to be present.

CHAPTER X
EDUCATION IN BUDAPEST

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EDUCATION IN BUDAPEST

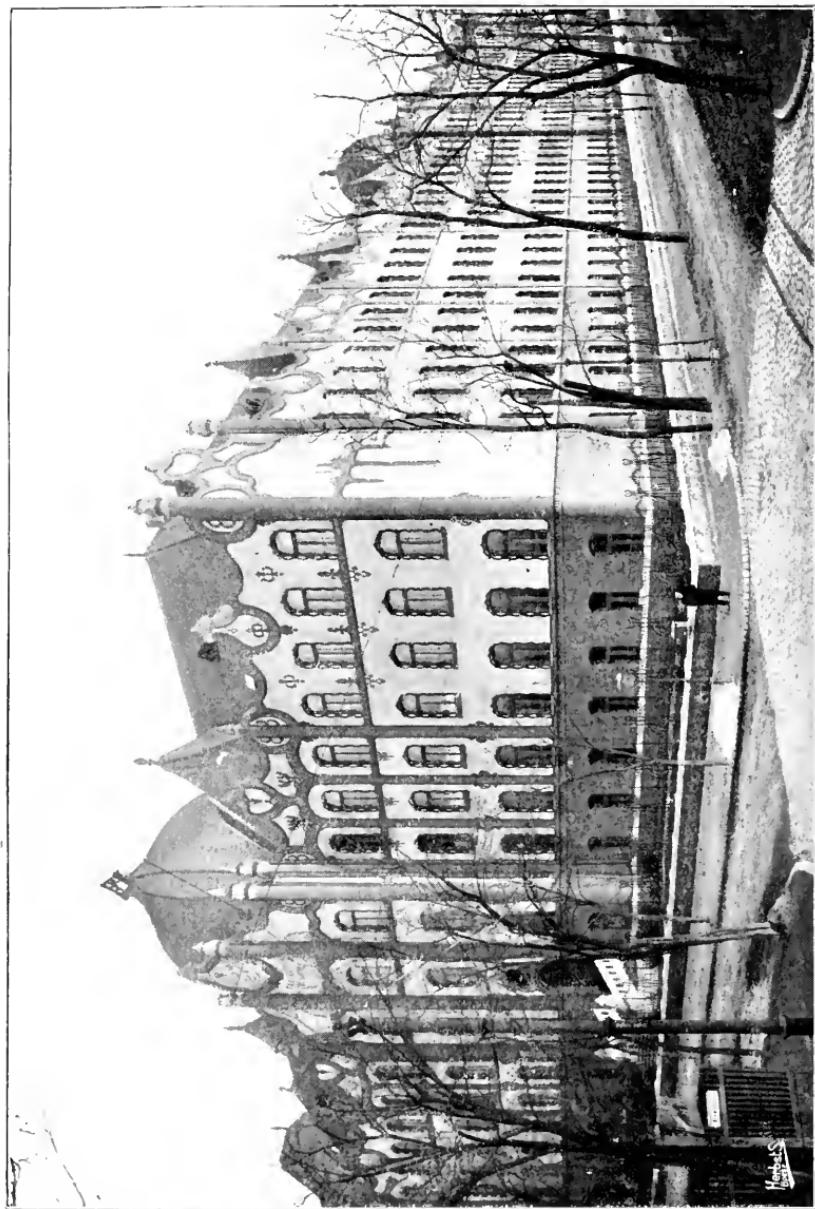
By Oscar Browning

COUNT ALBERT APPONYI, one of those most active in inviting the deputation of the Eighty Club to visit Hungary, and Minister of Instruction in that country, kindly suggested that I should visit the principal places of education in the Hungarian capital, and let him know what I thought of them. Therefore, while the rest of the deputation was engaged in an excursion to the High Tátra and to Pozsony, I devoted two days and a half to the inspection of the educational institutions of Budapest, a visit the pleasure of which was only slightly marred by a bitter north-east wind that happened to be blowing at the time. I was received with the utmost courtesy by the Education Office, and made the acquaintance of the staff of the Department. An eminent educationalist and

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high Government official, Dr. Darvai, was kind enough to act as my guide, and without his valuable assistance I should have seen little or nothing.

The greater part of my first day was taken up by a visit to the Queen Elizabeth High School for Girls, situated on the outskirts of the town near the town park. The building is large and stately, admirably lighted and furnished, and surrounded by spacious grounds which recalled to me some of our English High Schools in the suburbs of London. I saw the girls at dinner, and dined myself with the teachers; I saw them in their class-rooms and witnessed their very interesting drill and gymnastic exercises. The whole college reminded me in every respect of the best institutions of the kind in England, of which I have seen many, except that the buildings were superior. The Head Mistress strongly resembled the English type of head mistress, able, energetic, kind, thoughtful and sympathetic; and one of the staff was a young English lady, the daughter of a clergyman, who had worked for six years in the school. She spoke highly of her pupils, but said they had more enthusiasm than persistence. They would



THE QUEEN ELISABETH ROYAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, BUDAPEST.

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begin a subject with great vigour, but were deficient in tenacity of purpose. Whatever may be the origin of the Magyars—and this seems to be an insoluble problem—they are certainly not Mongolian either in face or in character; their disposition recalls rather the characteristics of Kelts or Slavs, of Irish or Highland Scots. In this school, as in others which I saw, the method of teaching is largely oral. The teachers talk to their pupils and ask them questions, and they are encouraged to repeat long passages by heart, or to give an abstract of what they have learned, in their own words. I had seen something of the same kind in Italy, but it differs very much from our English methods. The visit left on me the most favourable impression. The college is named after the late Queen Elizabeth of Hungary, Empress of Austria. She took a strong personal interest in its welfare, and representations of her beautiful countenance often greeted me from the walls.

In the morning of the same day I had visited a large Réaliskola, or modern school, which seemed to be very well equipped. I heard lessons on the subjects which I was competent to understand, and was made acquainted with

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such boys as could talk English. The appearance of the scholars was handsome and manly, and they seemed to me to have a rather precocious physical development. I always asked the average age of the pupils in a form, and those who were pointed out to me as fourteen years of age I should have taken for sixteen. Although the Eighty Club was invited to Hungary at the instance of a political party, our visit was met everywhere, as abundantly appears from the earlier part of this volume, by a national welcome. Nothing could exceed the enthusiasm with which we were greeted, and this warmth of feeling was as noticeable in the schools as it was anywhere else. I may mention also that a little book on the History of Educational Theories, which I published some twenty-five years ago, has been translated into Hungarian by Professor Kármán, the most distinguished educationalist in the country, and is studied by those who are preparing for the profession of teaching.* The knowledge of my

* The title of this translation is as follows: "A Nevelés Elméletének Története, Bevezető Tanulmány, írta Oscar Browning, a Cambridg i Egyetem Tanára. Angolból. Könyvészeti és életrajzi jegyzetekkel ellátott átdolgozás." Budapest, az Athenaeum R. Társulat Kiadása. 1885.

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name, derived from this book, secured me a hearty personal welcome.

In the evening of this day I visited the medical faculty of the University, not because I was competent to pronounce a judgment upon its organisation, but because I was glad to see the efforts which the Hungarians were making to keep abreast with the highest level of modern science. The Klinik, which I first visited, seemed admirably equipped with all modern improvements, and my attention was specially directed to a room devoted to the use of the Röntgen ray apparatus, which appeared to me absolutely up to date; indeed, so much so that I feared an explosion from the high tension of electricity, which my guide confessed that he was not altogether capable of managing. Then followed a short visit to the maternity building, where young Hungarians seemed to be brought into the world with all the comfort and luxury of which the circumstances admit, and in numbers which seemed to argue no immediate diminution in the population of that stalwart race. It was dark when I reached my hotel, at the end of this laborious and interesting day, throughout which I gratefully admired the energy and vigour with which my guide through

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the labyrinth, Dr. Darvai, remained helpful to the end.

On the following morning our first visit was paid to a Classical High School, an Obergymnasium, as it would be called in Germany, a Föögymnázium in Hungary. Here I was more in my element. I heard classes in Greek and Latin, in history and French. I found the methods which I have previously described in use. The boys knew their Horace and Virgil, as Eton boys used to know them, and the master scarcely used a book. This certainly argued readiness and familiarity with the subject, but I had no opportunity of estimating what was the standard of exact scholarship in the college. It is quite possible that this may be somewhat neglected in order to secure a better knowledge of the classics as literature, as is suggested by our English classical reformers. In one matter I must register a disappointment. I had gone to Hungary with the idea that Latin was habitually spoken by the cultivated classes, and that it could be used in conversation as a substitute for German, the use of which is certainly discouraged. It is true that up to 1848 Latin was the official language of the Hungarian Parliament, and in

Education in Budapest

the earlier part of the century it was the current tongue of society. As it is, I only met with one man who could converse fluently in that language, and he had learned it in an ecclesiastical seminary. We must therefore surrender the idea that an ability to speak Latin is a passport to Hungarian travel.

From the Gymnasium I passed to the Paidagogium, a Training College, where I found myself again in familiar scenes. It was a training college for secondary teachers, these being trained in Hungary, as they are in every civilised country in the world except our own, the practice of training primary and secondary students together, which is now making its way in England, not being here introduced. The students appeared to me serious and sensible, and superior in culture and refinement to some whom I had seen in Germany and Switzerland. Here also I found that authorship of my book was a passport to friendship. The Training College seemed to me managed much in the same way as our training colleges in England, although ours are for primary and this for secondary students. The course was for three years, as ours is, and was composed of the same elements, lectures on the theory, history, and

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practice of education, criticism lessons and work in a practising school.

From the Training College I crossed the river and visited one of the most interesting educational institutions in the country, the Francis Joseph College, which I was told was another Eton. It is housed in a stately building, on the hill of Buda, and it consists of about a hundred boarders and a much larger number of day students. The boarders are dressed in a military uniform and belong, I was told, to the best families of Hungary. Indeed, most of them seemed to be either Counts or Barons. The cost of the instruction is relatively large, not less than a hundred a year, which is, however, less than half the expense of Eton or Harrow. I saw the students at their lessons ; the teaching appeared to be very good, and of the ordinary Hungarian type that is strikingly oral in character. The dormitories were large and airy, with plenty of accommodation ; the beds were open and there were no horse-boxes. The boys are not allowed to visit the dormitories, except for the purpose of changing for games. Work was done in studies, where each student had his own place. The refectory was arranged like a College Hall, with a high

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table, and the relations between the students and the staff appeared to be of the most friendly description. The boys wore badges, which represented different degrees of merit, and I noticed that the most diligent were not necessarily the eldest. The dinner was excellent; whether it was specially prepared for my benefit, I cannot say, but the boys had the same dishes as the masters. There was no distinction, as there is in a Cambridge College, between the fare of the dons and that of the undergraduates. The exceptional character of the entertainment was apparent in the wines, of which a choice selection was offered to me. The series ended with a glass of rare Tokay. The best Tokay is not to be bought in the market, and the Tokay in question was a present from the private vineyards of Count Lónyay. I was glad to see that the boys participated in all the good things, so that they probably remembered my visit with pleasure. After dinner several of the young men came and consulted me about pursuing their education in England. I advised them to come to the University, and offered, if they wrote to me, to give them every information in my power. After a very pleasant half-hour in the masters'

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drawing-room, where coffee and liqueurs were served, and where I had a most interesting conversation about French literature with two cultivated Frenchmen, I joined the boys in the playground, where I witnessed an exhibition of jumping and putting the weight. The wind was very cold, and the boys who were looking on wore their military overcoats. Good-humour and good-fellowship seemed to prevail, but the whole scene had no resemblance to the Eton playing fields. There was an absence of spirit and freedom and a presence of military discipline which would not suit our English tastes. It cannot be said that there was any appearance of a "Francis Joseph Slouch." It is impossible to speak with anything but praise of a college so magnificently installed, governed with so much enlightenment, so high in tone, so rich in memories, making such claims on the lifelong gratitude of its pupils. But there is much truth in what an Hungarian magnate said to me about it, that it was too military, too much confined, and too near the town, that for his own children he preferred freedom and country air. Still my visit to the Francis Joseph College will always remain, together with my visit to the Queen Elizabeth College, amongst the brightest of my Hungarian experiences.

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The bitterly cold evening was spent in a visit to the new buildings of the Budapest Polytechnic, admirably but expensively equipped. Here I saw a wonderful balance, which would weigh to the minutest milligram without opening the glass envelope which enclosed it, and to the buildings of the Law School of the University. In these there was nothing specially remarkable excepting a lecture room which would hold four hundred students. The Hungarian lecture rooms and schoolrooms are all furnished in a similar manner, with fixed desks of a practical but somewhat antiquated character. Still they are better than many of our Cambridge lecture rooms.

The third and last day was devoted to two visits of a specially interesting character, one to a model school with alternate classes, specially designed for students in training to be secondary schoolmasters, and the other a magnificent new school in Buda, of which the upper story is a higher grade school and the lower an ordinary elementary school. The model school was founded by Professor Kármán, the distinguished educationalist who did me the honour of translating my book on Educational Theories. It was, as its name implies, a model school in

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every respect, and the teaching was excellent. I was informed that it is much sought after as a place of education, and is always full. The limitation to alternate classes depends upon the circumstances that the building not being large enough to accommodate all the classes of a gymnasium, half the classes, the odd ones, are taken in one year and the even ones in the next, an ingenious plan which I have never heard of in England, but which, I believe, is common in Germany. It is very interesting to see the students in training watching the classes and taking notes, as they reminded me of my own students in Cambridge. So far as my experience goes, I should say that this model school stands high amongst all the schools of the Continent, and is of a type which does not exist in England. I left it with a feeling of the deepest pleasure and satisfaction.

The school which was the termination of my visit is a stately building, in an original style, redolent of "Secession." The rooms are large and airy, the laboratories well supplied; everything up to date. My desire was, wherever I went, to get behind the outward show to the heart of the matter, and to become acquainted with the children themselves. In this school

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I succeeded perhaps better than anywhere else. Some of the boys spoke English, and I had begun to understand a little Hungarian, so that I became quite at ease in some of the classes. I was struck with the vigorous and handsome appearance of the scholars, looking a year, or even two years, older than English boys of the same age, with self-possession, readiness, and *aplomb*. They seemed extremely well behaved, and it was difficult to imagine that they ever needed punishment. They reminded me of the schoolboys whom I had seen in the Colonies, and I was told by the teachers that my judgment was correct. The boys were very friendly, and one of them made me a present of the national tulip badge, worn by high and low, by Ministers and peasants ; indeed, by all those who are in favour of Hungarian independence. In this school I had also ocular demonstration of the arrangements made for religious teaching, as all denominations are admitted to teach in the schools. The teaching is given during school hours, no particular hour being reserved for the purpose. I saw Roman Catholic priests and Lutheran pastors waiting in the corridors for this purpose. I was not allowed to enter the schoolrooms

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whilst religious instruction was going on, an indication that it was not of a perfunctory character. Count Apponyi assured us that the religious difficulty does not arise in the Hungarian schools.

On the following day Count Apponyi asked me what impression my school visits had made upon me, and I was able to give him a most favourable report. The Eighty Club will probably expect that I should make some general remarks upon Hungarian education. In the first place there can be no doubt that the Hungarians of Budapest are deeply interested in education, and are full of zeal to make it as efficient as possible, and to emulate the best efforts of other countries. On the other hand, I cannot be sure that what I saw was a fair specimen of the whole. It was natural that the best schools should be shown to me, and it was not in my power to search out the work by myself. I derived nothing but pleasure from my intercourse with Hungarian students, young men and young women, girls and boys. One Sunday afternoon I visited the Athletic Club, and saw some excellent jumping and throwing of the discus, in which the young men of Budapest were engaged. The seats were crowded.

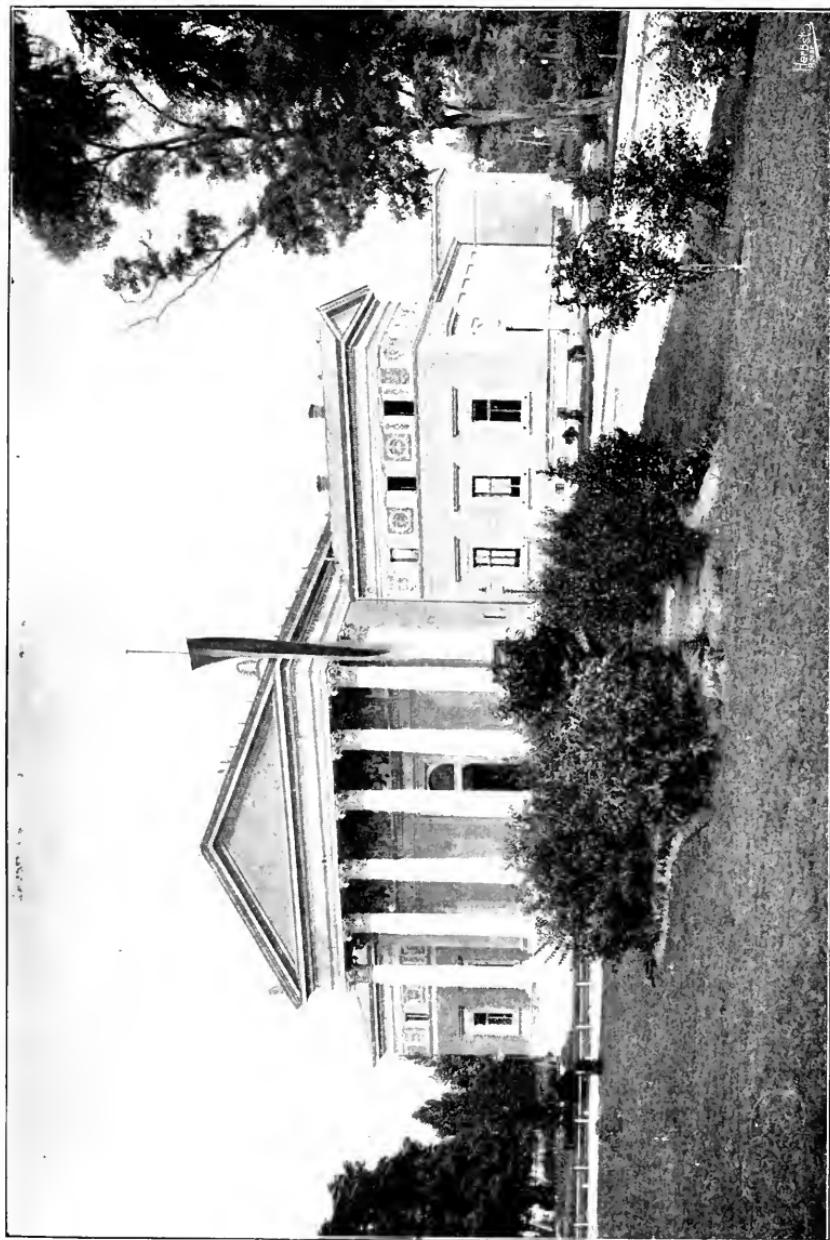
Education in Budapest

I was asked to join the judges in the arena, and when I left was saluted by the young athletes with ringing shouts of "Hip! hip! hurrah!" which lost nothing in Magyar throats. If I have a criticism to make, it is that I am not sure that there is not too much building and apparatus. In England we should not care to spend a million and a half on a new Parliament House. Our Cambridge custom is first to get the teachers and the students, the teaching is carried on in wooden sheds, and nothing better is provided until the sheds tumble down about our ears. The building killeth, but the teacher giveth life. In Hungary they seem to get the building first and to trust that when the temple is erected the spirit will enter in and dwell there. I was told, as stated above, that the Hungarian students are very active at the commencement, but lack tenacity of purpose, and I heard stories which seemed to show that the teachers were also occasionally slack and casual. But these weaknesses of human nature are found everywhere. I can fairly say that while I was conscious of missing the Alpine heights of the Tátra and the crystalline mirror of Lake Csorba, and the trout which listened so fatally to the blandishments

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of Mr. Newbolt, and the triumphal progress of Pozsony, I would not have surrendered for anything the days spent in the schools of Budapest, even though exposed to the biting blasts of a Danubian north-easter.

Hersch



THE ACADEMY OF ARTS, BUDAPEST.

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CHAPTER XI

FISHING IN LAKE CSORBA



CHAPTER XI

FISHING IN LAKE CSORBA

THE following article appeared in *The Field* of November 3, 1906. It was there headed—

“A TROUT LAKE OF HUNGARY.”

Upon our arrival at Budapest we were surprised to learn that fishing as a sport is practically ignored in Hungary, which is well known to be a great sporting country. The time which we had to spend there was so short that we were unable to see anything of the home-life of Magyar hunters; but all those to whom we spoke expressed entire ignorance of fishing. We were a large party, and late in September were the guests of the Minister of Agriculture in the Carpathians, where there were said to be two lakes in which some strictly preserved fishing in the hands of the

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Government was to be placed at our disposal, or rather at the disposal of the only one who had brought a rod. We hoped that he would catch something, for the credit of the expedition. It was vaguely understood that he had once written a volume of fishing stories, and that such books are properly included in fiction.

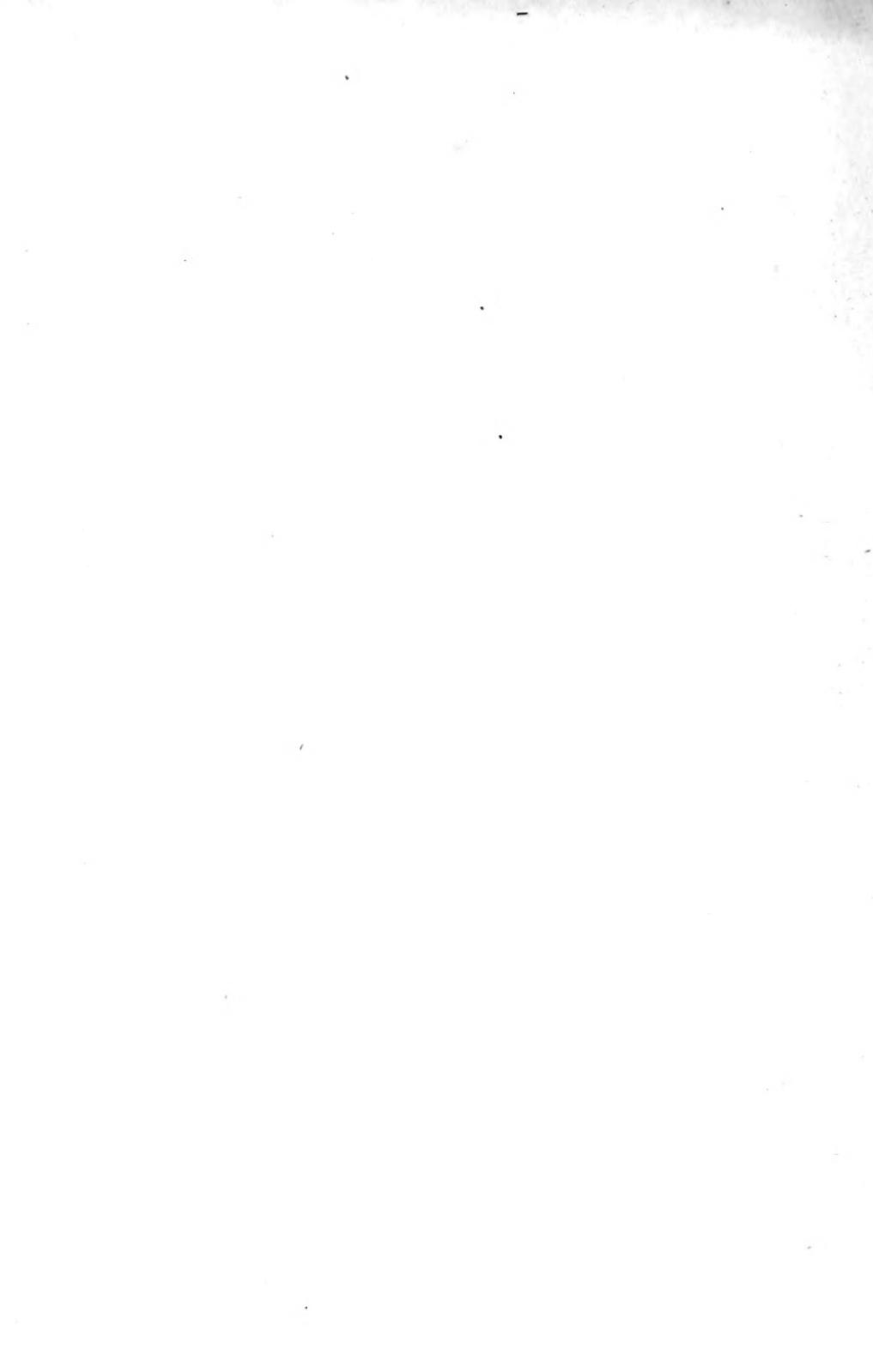
We arrived in the mountains late in the evening in a snowstorm, and the early autumn was suddenly changed to winter. It seemed more seasonable to think of sleigh and ski than of gut and flies, and our fishing representative, Mr. "March Brown," said that many years of mixed experience had made him sceptical of indefinite prospects of trout in distant lakes. He also pointed out that the one and only day which we could spend in the High Tátra was to include a long drive of several hours and two formal banquets.

We spent the night in a new hotel, which, by common consent, was voted the most perfectly appointed of all those we had ever visited. There were glorious views of forests and plains and mountains, the rooms were palatial, and the furniture moved the ladies to enthusiasm.



LAKE CSORBA IN THE HIGH TÁTRA.

(p. 287)



Fishing in Lake Csorba

Early the next morning we set off for our drive in the snow, through dense woods stocked with all kinds of game. The first of a long procession of carriages scared a wild deer off the track. About midday we reached a large dark lake, and were entertained at luncheon in another fine hotel, where March Brown was introduced to the fisherman, or gillie, who was in charge of the fishing. He was a tall, silent-looking Hungarian, who spoke German as well as Hungarian, and had the appearance of a typical verderer. He shook his head doubtfully over the little 9-ft. rod, and showed an enormous yellow fly on very old gut as his idea of a lure.

The lake was immediately behind the hotel, and when the speeches were over, and we were free for a walk, we found Brown and the man starting out to try their luck. It was still snowing fast, and there was a strong breeze. The net carried by the man had no handle, and was not only quite flat, but had such wide meshes that a fish of nearly 1 lb. could (and did) slide through with ease.

They went on board a huge barge moored inside a boathouse, and, from scraps of conversation in German, French, and Hungarian

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which reached us, we gathered that Brown was explaining that even with a small rod he could not cast a fly without more sea room. A few minutes later the barge was pushed out by a keen-faced countryman, who joined the party, and, under the critical eyes of such of the spectators as were not too cold to wait, Brown began to fish. Strange to say, a fish almost immediately rose to the fly ; but when a second later it hooked itself there seemed to be considerable difficulty in reeling it in. We learned later that this was due not so much to its inherent sportiveness, which was great, as to the fact that the line was frozen to the rings all down the rod. After a few minutes' excitement, a capture was effected, and a trout of a deep bronze colour was safely freezing in the snow at the bottom of the boat. This was quickly followed by another, and one was lost ; but we saw no further rise. As we moved off to improve our circulation by a brisk walk round the water, the three men got into a much smaller boat, and Brown put on a minnow. He had, however, no swivels and no lead, and, as the black waters of the lake were reputed to be of great depth, we did not envy him as we saw him sitting motionless

Fishing in Lake Csorba

with his feet in the melting snow, and being paddled across the middle. However, before we got round, he was again in a fish near the shore, and we watched him stop several times to play others on his way round to the boathouse. Each time he had to thaw the line off the rings by wetting the rod, and he must have been very keen to remain out long enough to kill his five brace. It took about an hour and a half. They made a very handsome dish, and saved our credit as a sporting people.

Our hosts assured us that it broke a record, and, what is perhaps more remarkable, that the catch provided fish at dinner for nearly forty people. Two were rainbows and the rest native brown trout, coloured to a dark bronze by the peaty water. They seemed to have more teeth than English trout, and a curious light edge to the gill covers, and I should not be surprised to learn they were not all of the same tribe. Some of the party walked several miles through the snow to visit the second lake ; but no one fished there, and, after trying to express our gratitude to our Hungarian friends for their lavish hospitality and thoughtfulness for our comfort, we took the night train back to Budapest with a very pleasant impression of the mountains,

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forests, and fish of the Carpathians. The last thing I heard as I turned in was a voice saying something to this effect to March Brown: "Well, you have got a real 'fish tale' at last, and forty witnesses to prove it." The answer was lost in the rumble of the train.

OCTUAGINTA.

CHAPTER XII

NAGYKÁROLY

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NAGYKÁROLY

NONE of us who were present at the dinner given by the Independent Club can forget the charming speech in which Count Károlyi gave the toast of our King. Though less actively engaged in political work than some of the younger leaders of that party now holding office, he stands as a high personage, linking the Louis Kossuth epoch, in which he fought and suffered exile, with the Nationalist movement of to-day, at the head of Hungary's great men. In social affairs and behind the political scene there is no more powerful figure than he, and the part he took in the arrangements made for our reception gave something to it beyond mere formalities. Nothing that he and Countess Károlyi could do in Budapest to add to the interest of our visit was left

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undone, and they were kind enough to give some of us an opportunity of seeing country life in Eastern Hungary. Nagykároly, the fifteenth-century castle of the Károlyi family, has been enlarged and altered of late years, so that it is now a big country house, filled with everything which makes a luxurious home. The Count's knowledge of England and his sympathy with English ideals, which made itself so pleasantly felt on every occasion during our visit, were to be seen in a hundred ways. As in the Park Club at Budapest, much of the furniture is of English design. Count Károlyi, however, is so true a patriot and so enthusiastic a member of the Order of the Red Tulip (the badge of "Hungary for the Hungarians") that nearly everything in the Castle has been actually made by workmen on his estate.

As he himself farms 15,000 acres of corn land, a great part of which has been reclaimed from the condition of wild forest and undrained marsh, the Count could give us an opportunity of seeing the best agriculture in Hungary. The peasants are evidently well provided for in every way. Well-built and extremely picturesque houses, each with a well, a large barn, a farmyard and a

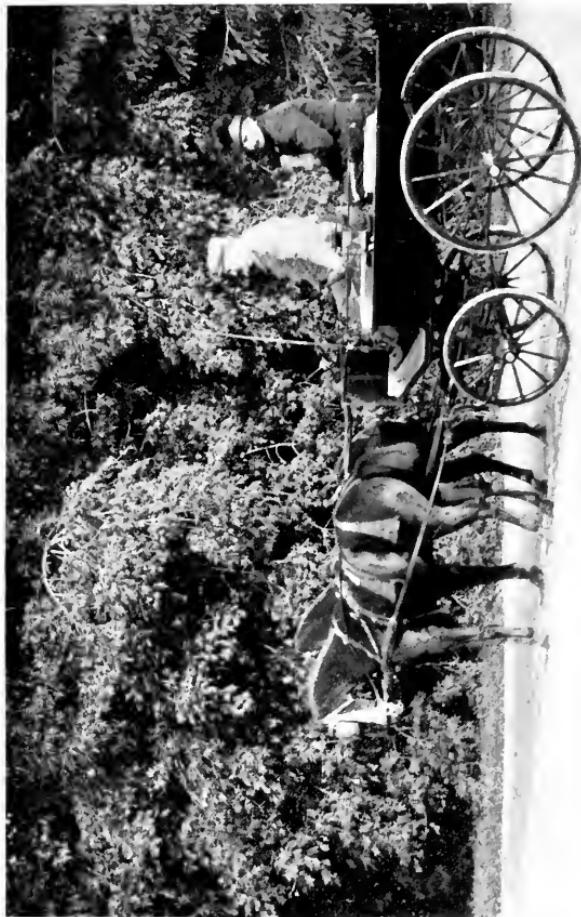


Photo by

Sir Henry Nouvion, M.D.

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COUNT STEPHEN KAROLINI

Nagykároly

tract of land, were in some of his villages the absolute property of the occupiers, many of whom are the descendants of German settlers, and all of whom have saved considerable sums of money. These holdings were granted to their predecessors by the father of our host, and since the railway has been made have largely increased in value. On the various steadings in his own occupation every labouring family is provided with a house, a cow, and a certain amount of pasture in addition to wages. Modern threshing machines, steam ploughs, and other agricultural machinery we saw everywhere, much of it of English make. The wheat, which had recently been harvested, was piled in huge masses (not stacked in ricks), and was being put through the threshing machines, which operation gave a good idea of Hungary's agricultural wealth in material form. Indian corn, mixed with gourds for stock feeding, and wheat were the staple crops over the whole countryside. Most of the grain is exported to Switzerland and the south of Germany. The Count is the owner of a stud of some two hundred horses. The stallions and brood mares are English thoroughbreds, bought by himself at Newmarket, and the stud farm is conducted on English lines, even down to the

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dress of the stable helpers. We had our coffee after lunch in the stables, seated in arm-chairs before a comfortable fire, and many of the best horses were led through the riding school for our inspection before we visited the paddocks in the wooded park to see the yearlings and the foals. The cattle in the home farm are from the Simmenthal in Switzerland. These are lodged in buildings of spotless cleanliness, with polished metal work and the freshest of bedding.

Two days were spent in the more distant forests, where the Count had arranged both stag driving and covert shooting for his guests. At ten o'clock, after coffee in our apartments, we started in a procession of four-in-hands, mail phaetons and victorias, drawn by fast Hungarian horses, driven either by members of our host's family or by men in dark Hungarian costumes, through the sandy roads to the forest, twelve kilometres from the Castle. We arrived at the rendezvous in less than an hour. There we found the intendants of the estate with the keepers and beaters waiting for the guns. Pair-horse springless forest carts with leather-hung seats were provided for us, and larger waggons for the beaters, to take us through the green rides to the stands to which the deer were driven.

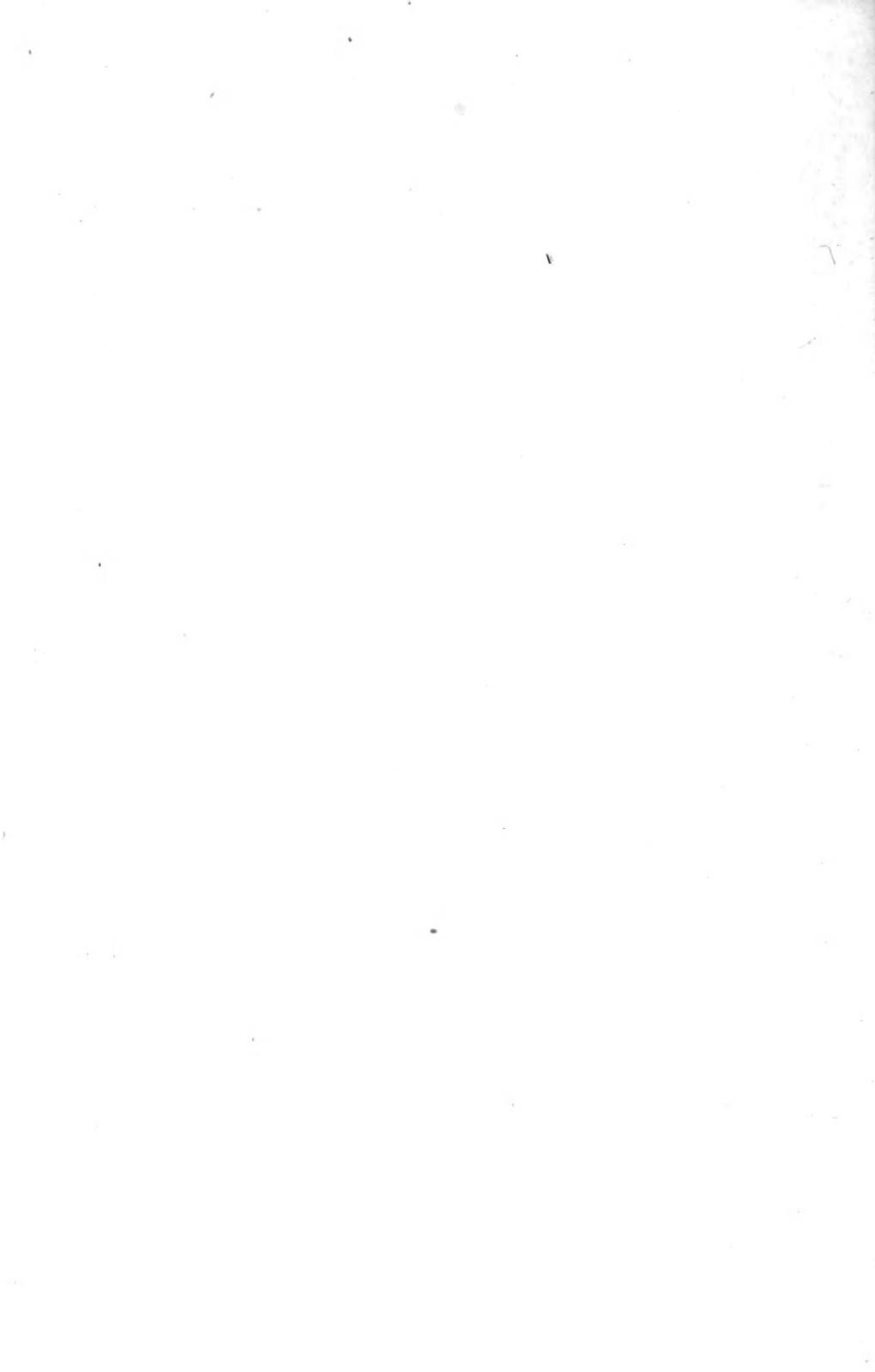
[Sir Henry Norman, M.P.]

THE CASTLE OF NAGYKÁROLY.

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Photo by)





Nagykároly

The arrangements were perfectly organised, and nothing could have been more expeditious than the drives, which brought the red deer either through the lines or at all events into view. It was a case of snapping, however, for the stags gave no chance of a carefully aimed shot. If by chance they came to stop two or three hundred yards in front of the rifles, they were practically protected by the timber and coppice which abounded in every direction. Every rifle, however, had at least one shot at a stag, and as the roe and fallow-deer always rushed through the line these were easily dealt with. We had six drives during the day, to each of which we were carried by the forest carts as fast as the horses could get along. At the close we had got red deer, fallow-deer and roebucks, besides a few hares. Nothing could be more picturesque than the *mise en scène* at every stage, particularly at luncheon, when the beaters in their varied costumes gathered round our party picnicing on the ground under the high forest. As in the Castle, so in the open, Hungarian dishes and Hungarian wines formed our fare, and a very merry time we had.

The coverts at Nagykároly are well stocked with wild pheasants. It is the usual rule to

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shoot cocks only, but as the woods are very extensive and well mixed with lawns, tracts of coppice and broad rides, and as on this occasion everything was to be shot that came over the guns, we found plenty of good sport, although the leaves were still thick on the trees. None of the drives were long, and before sixty beaters the birds and hares and roedeer came forward as fast as any one could wish. The quickness with which the beaters got into position, driving from point to point in their waggons, was one of the features of the occasion which might well be imitated in some places at home. The guns were trotted to their stands in a long, low, springless waggon, on the principle of an Irish car, drawn by four horses, on one of which was mounted the driver—no less a person than the Mayor and Justice of the Peace of the Commune. He evidently considered it an honour to serve his feudal superior in the field of sport as well as in that of local administration. As with everything Hungarian, the organisation was admirable. Nothing was left undone. Everything moved with precision. There was very little time, however, to gather the game. No dogs were on the ground, and we shot each with one gun only. It appears to

Nagykároly

be the custom for the keepers to go through the coverts the next day with spaniels, and then pick up the bag. Hares were numerous, but the Hungarians are too wise to tolerate rabbits in their forests, or on their farm lands.

Partridge shooting is earlier in Hungary than it is with us, and of these birds we saw none. Hares are shot as a rule later in the year in big battues, being driven over a good stretch of country between lines of stops up to the guns. As many as two thousand are sometimes killed in the day, are left to freeze on the ground all night, and are then packed into special trains and dispatched to London, which seems to be the market to which turkeys, partridges, and hares are directed from every part of Hungary. Later in the season also the hinds are shot in the forests from high stands with a small covered shelter which is reached by a ladder. On such occasions the night is spent in one of the forest lodges, where our party had wine at the end of each day's sport, and which are provided with beds for less luxurious hunters. At four in the morning you repair to one of these stands, which are always placed in the open glades and meadows where the deer come at daybreak to feed, and from these you shoot.

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We learned without surprise that this form of sport was less popular than that which our host had provided for us. Stalking as practised in Scotland does not seem to be known in Hungary. The stags scale much heavier and have finer heads than those in our northern forests. There is better shelter for the deer all the year round and better feeding. In fact, the conditions of the red deer in Central Europe are more advantageous in every way for the development of the species than the conditions which the Scottish climate and mountains provide. The Hungarian forest is, in fact, a gigantic deer park, and is probably much the same as the traditional forest in which all over Europe the king hunted in the old days. As a picture of life and costume the whole thing was most interesting. Though the arrangements were perfectly simple in spirit, they were carried out on the most generous scale. It is needless to say that this spirit of simplicity reigned in the Castle at Nagykároly, where we enjoyed the most delightful hospitality, with a house party with whom English was the spoken language, where English hunting songs were sung after dinner, and where English ideas and mode of thought were perfectly understood. Though the traditions of a great Hungarian

Nagykároly

family prevailed in the Castle, in the town, and over the estates, our host and his friends, among whom was Count Dessewffy, the President of the Upper House, were as familiar with Melton Mowbray, Newmarket, Bond Street, and Paris as any Englishman, and we danced in the evenings not only the Csárdás but the Reel.

CHAPTER XIII

THE DANUBE EXCURSION





A PARTY OF HUNGARIANS AND ENGLISHMEN ON A DANUBE STEAMER, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1906.

CHAPTER XIII

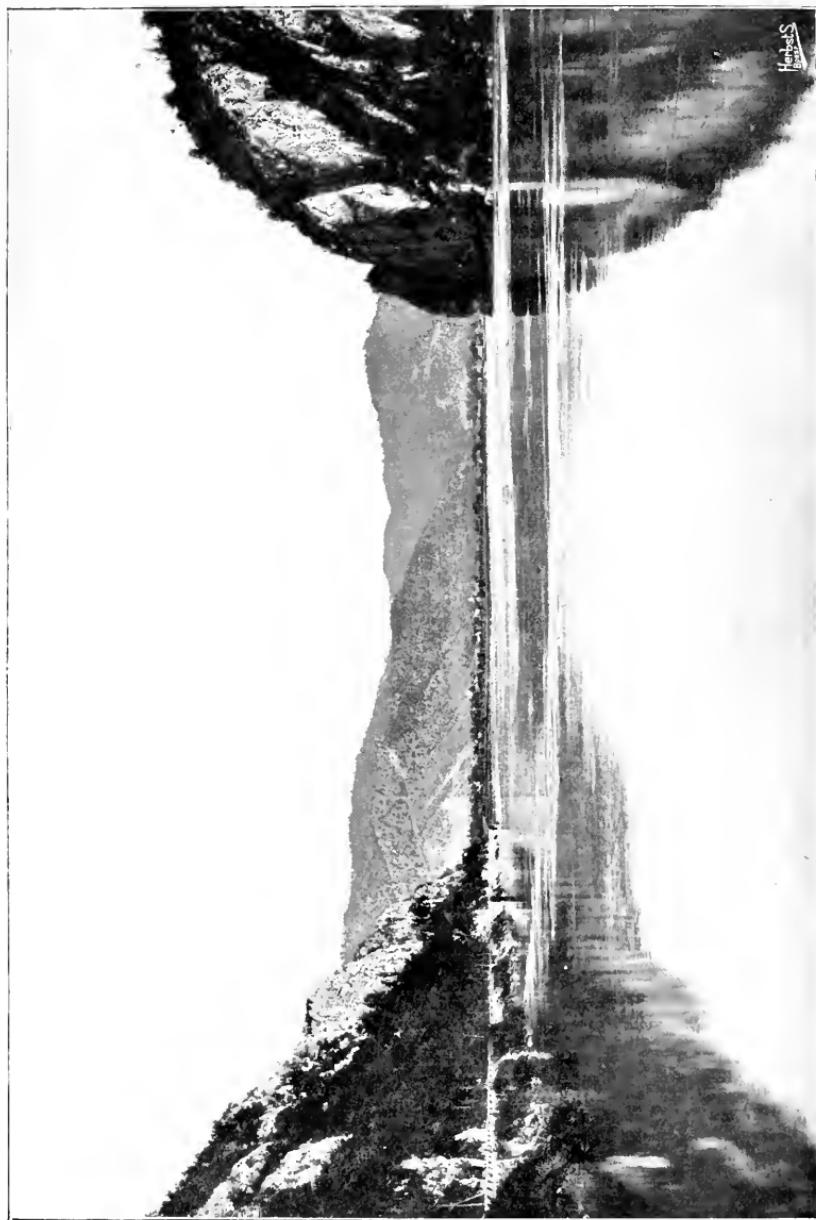
THE DANUBE EXCURSION

ON Friday night, September 28th, the party left Budapest in the same comfortable train which had made the journey to the Carpathians, and travelled to Orsova, the south-eastern limit of the kingdom of Hungary. At eight o'clock the next morning we arrived at a quay on the broad waters of the Danube, where the steamer of the Hungarian River and Sea Navigation Company (Magyar Folyam es Tengerhajózási Részvénnytársaság) gave us a hospitable welcome. The manager of the Company made an appropriate speech in French to the ladies and leaders of the deputation, and conducted them to the saloon, where a sumptuous breakfast was provided. Each guest was handed a special guide, printed for the occasion and illustrated with photographs.

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The morning, which was brilliantly fine and seemed delightfully warm after the rigours of the Tátra, was all that could be desired for a river excursion. Nothing that could add to the comfort of the trip was omitted by the Hungarian gentlemen who acted as hosts. The hospitality of the Navigation Company on this occasion cannot be too gratefully acknowledged.

The scene was one of great beauty and of historic interest. Leaving the little town behind, the steamer took us against the heavy stream through the famous Kazán Pass. Here the great river is confined within high limestone cliffs which are only 150 metres apart, and the strength of the current checks the progress even of a powerful steamer. We chatted in groups, strolled about the decks, smoked and talked incessantly, and generally enjoyed the usual incidents of a river picnic coupled with the unusual experiences of the place. The strangely clad peasants on the slopes, the fishermen at the water's edge, the build of a passing vessel, all reminded us that we were far from home. On the south or Servian bank the remains of Trajan's road were plainly visible. It was made about A.D. 100, being



THE DANUBE BELOW THE PASS OF KÁZAN.

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The Danube Excursion

partly cut in the side of the cliff and partly carried out on wooden brackets or beams over the river; the regular square holes for these supports are clearly seen in the sheer rocky face of the cliff. On the northern or Hungarian side is the Széchenyi Road, constructed in 1834 to 1837 by the Government at the instance of the great Stephen Széchenyi, to whose genius, wealth, and life-long devotion to the national cause Hungary owes so many great conceptions.

After a couple of hours against the current, our steamer was put about, and we returned at a very different speed past Orsova, where we had embarked, and past the Island of Ada-Kaleh, with its Turkish inhabitants, mosque, minaret, and vineyards. The Moslems waved us a greeting and Orsova honoured us with a salute of guns as we passed downwards towards the Iron Gate. Formerly the impetuous river was here broken into spray and foam over the rocks which spread across its entire width, rendering all navigation hazardous and mercantile transport quite out of the question, but now a channel, 80 metres wide and 1,800 metres long, down which the current glides swiftly but smoothly at the rate of

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about six miles an hour, allows any ship to pass in safety up or down.

While we were admiring this remarkable feat of engineering skill, of which we had seen a beautiful model in the Agricultural Museum, we were bidden to an elaborate luncheon in the Saloon where neither the caviar for which Orsova is famous nor the sterlet of the Danube were wanting.

After the usual loyal toasts had been proposed and honoured, Mr. Browning gave a Latin speech in praise of the Hungarian River and Sea Navigation Company. The Committee had reason to congratulate themselves upon the happy idea which had occurred to one of them that this was the very spot for a Latin speech, and that there was a scholar present who could compose it. Five minutes' warning just before lunch had been sufficient for Mr. Browning, and the following speech, spoken with the foreign pronunciation, was received with great applause :—

“Honoratissimi hospites et amici, Hodie Danubium navigamus, antiqui Romani imperii fines. Reliquias illius imperii ab omni parte visimus : Romaniam a legionibus Romanis olim habitatam ubi Romana lingua hodie etiam in usu est ; Serviam, terram Romae subjectam ; et Hungariam



THE SZÉCHÉNYI ROAD (DANUBE).

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The Danube Excursion

ab illis occupatam, qui imperium Romanum everterunt. Viam conspeximus a Trajano Imperatore constructam, ubi vix improbus alpinista hodie pedibus ire posset; viam etiam ab illustri Hungarico magnate summo labore et scientia confectam, hodierni cultus signum simul et triumphum. Memoriis antiquis circumdati, quam valde sentimus quanto sit superior eorum temporum cultus in quibus hodie vivimus. Ubi Romani olim difficile flumen ratibus descendebant, nos miro vaporis auxilio in paucis horis facimus quod illi longo mensium spatio perfecissent. Propino, hospites et amici, saluti trium regnorum quorum fines in hoc angulo terrarum convenient, et praesertim societati navigationis, quae hoc jucundum iter nobis possibile effecit."

To this reply was made by Dr. Mór Domony, the manager of the Steamship Company, whose courtesy and kindness went far to ensure the day's success. Speaking in French, he thanked Mr. Browning for his eloquence and his other guests for the way in which the toast had been drunk, and concluded by raising his glass "à la santé du plus joli bouquet qui puisse orner cette salle, aux dames ici présentes." Mr. H. A. Baker then proposed the health of the captain

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and crew of the ship, and Mr. Lehel Hédervári, Hungarian Deputy, speaking in Magyar, proposed the toast "Anglia and the Eighty Club." Other good speeches were made, and great enthusiasm prevailed everywhere. It was a strange meeting of East and West afloat between Roumania and Servia, realised most clearly when Britons and Magyars joined in cheering sentiments expressed in two languages, neither of which is spoken in Britain or in Hungary.

Before lunch we had descended the Danube as far as Turn-Severin, a Roumanian town, where we saw the remains of Trajan's bridge on both shores, and shortly afterwards retraced our course through the canalised channel of the Iron Gate to the quay of Orsova. Here we landed and walked to the little circular building, the Crown Chapel, which marks the spot where the Hungarian crown and insignia were buried by Louis Kossuth and Szemere when in 1849 the national army was defeated and Austrian rule was again established in the land. The secret was divulged four years later, and the King of Hungary erected this chapel to mark the place where his recovered crown had once been hidden.



Photo by

ADA KALEH, TURKISH ISLAND OPPOSITE ORSOVA, BETWEEN THE HUNGARIAN AND SERBIAN BANKS OF THE DANUBE.

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[Mps. A. M. Breitwiss]

The Danube Excursion

At three o'clock our train moved out of Orsova station, and winding along the narrow romantic valley of the Cserna, brought us in less than an hour to Herculesfürdö. This famous bathing resort, known to the Romans as Thermæ Herculis, and visited now by those who come from many lands to seek health here, is Government property, baths and hotels being let on lease to concessionaires. A visit to the fine bathing rooms, a plunge by a tumultuous throng of Englishmen into the swimming bath, a walk round the gardens and the town, prepared the party for an entertainment of country music and dancing by the Roumanian peasants who dwell in this Hungarian valley. The men, arrayed in flowing white tunics under their short black jackets, and the women with bright varied colours on their embroidered bodices and plain white or tinted skirts, were led by a village band, and danced us a greeting in the fine hall of the Casino. It was a striking contrast between the simple peasant life and the luxury and refinement of a fashionable bathing resort. All too quickly came the hour of seven, when we dined again as the guests of the Minister of Agriculture. When the champagne was handed round, the loyal toasts were honoured before

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dinner was finished. Mr. Louis Kolozsváry, Director of the Baths, proposed “King Edward,” and Mr. T. H. D. Berridge, M.P., proposed the King of Hungary’s health; then Mr. Joseph Németh, Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, proposed the toast “The English Guests,” and once again our health was drunk enthusiastically by Hungarian friends.

Mr. Nathaniel Micklem, M.P., replied in words that summed up the party’s gratitude for the welcome which they had everywhere found. He said:—

“ We must very reluctantly recognise that the time has arrived when the deputation of the Eighty Club to the Independent Party in Hungary has to break up, though some of its members will remain for a time in the country. On such an occasion it is difficult—nay, it is impossible—to express adequately what the members of the deputation would like to say. But the first and uppermost thought in their minds is one of the warmest gratitude for the unbounded, the royal hospitality with which they have been received. Nothing can exceed the kindness of our Hungarian friends. They have done everything which could possibly be done to provide for our comfort and our pleasure.



VALLEY OF THE CSERNA, WITH MALILD MOUNT.

The Danube Excursion

They have placed their railways and their steamers at our disposal, and they have even illuminated their mountains in our honour. We tender them our most heartfelt thanks, and assure them that the memory of their kindness will never be effaced from our hearts.

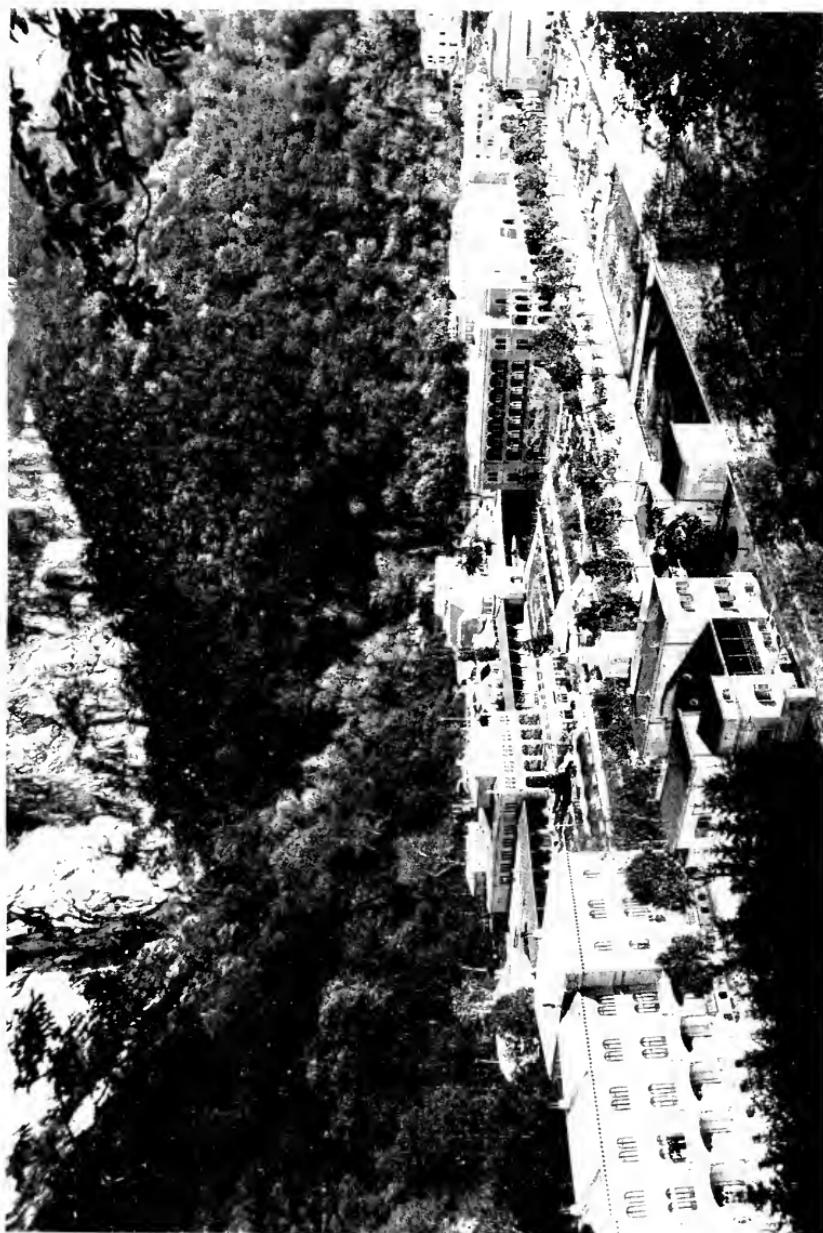
“ Not only has the deputation had the fullest opportunity of seeing the great capital of Hungary with its splendid buildings and vast industries, and the ancient city of Pozsony, one of the most interesting cities of Europe, but they have been introduced to the beauties of the snow-capped Carpathians, and shown the grandeur of the Iron Gate. Yet much as these places have interested them, the central interest of their visit has arisen from the fact that they have come into personal contact with some of Hungary’s leading men, and the Hungarian friends who have so nobly entertained them. One of the ancient poets has said there are many wonderful things in the world but none is so wonderful as man, and to us in the future, delightful as our visit has been, its principal pleasure will be derived from this, that we have been honoured by meeting Dr. Wekerle, your Prime Minister, Mr. Francis de Kossuth, Count Albert Apponyi, and others,

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and heard their views and talked with them face to face.

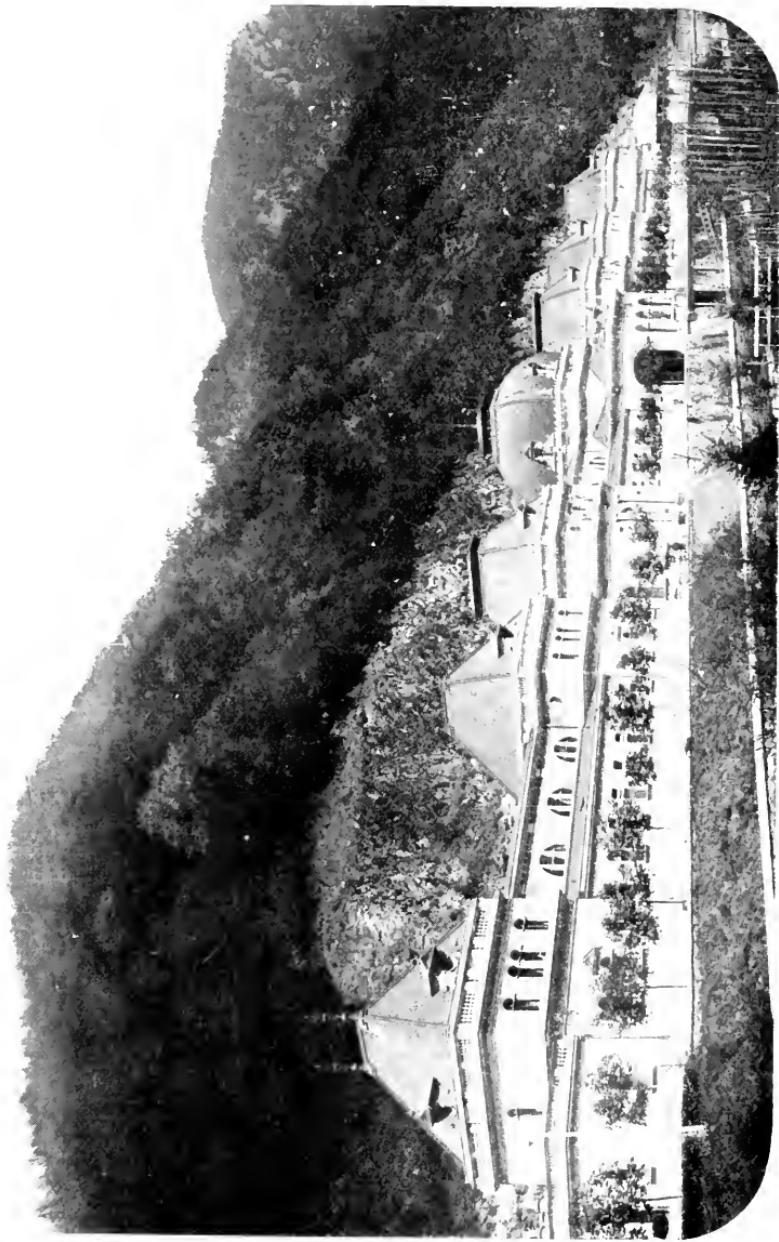
“The deputation did not come to Hungary to advocate any political measures. They came to express their sympathy with a warm-hearted and progressive nation, and to learn, where only it would be adequately learned, something of the real position of the country and what were the views and aspirations of its leading men. We are not so unwise as to suppose that in our short visit we have qualified ourselves to form final and conclusive opinions upon all questions affecting Hungary, nor are we conceited enough to assume that we have accurate knowledge of the country. But this at least we have done, we have seen enough to enable us to correct and modify statements which have been made in irresponsible newspapers, and in the future we shall be able to test and weigh such statements by what we have seen and heard.

“We came to Hungary expecting to find a highly civilised, artistic, and developed people, but we were hardly prepared to find how marvellous was the position to which your country had attained. If Hungary has much to learn from England, England has, it is certain, much to learn from Hungary. We



HERCULESFÜRDÖ,

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HERCULESFÜRDÖ—THE SZÁPMÁRI BATH.

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The Danube Excursion

of the Eighty Club shall go back to England with many new facts to help us in our fight for social reform. On the great questions of education, land reform, and industrial problems you have given us new light and fresh facts which will be of the utmost importance, and you may be sure that in many English constituencies the lessons which we have learned in Hungary will be repeated.

“And now what shall be our last message to the people of Hungary? Those of the deputation who are members of Parliament were elected as the advocates of peace among nations, retrenchment in national expenditure, and reform and progress in domestic affairs, and those of us who are not members of Parliament are equally pledged to these objects. We rejoice to know, not only from the fine speech made by Count Apponyi at the Inter-Parliamentary Conference in London, but from the speeches here last week of your Prime Minister and Mr. de Kossuth and Count Apponyi, that you are in sympathy with us in these views. So long as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is at the head of the English Government the aim of England will be to settle all international difficulties by the arbitrament of peace and not

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of war. Let Hungary and England go hand in hand in the matter. Each of them has its own peculiar difficulties ; each of them must develop on its own lines ; no two living organisms are alike ; but let our two nations be alike in this, that they seek their progress and development in just, wise, and peaceful measures.

“And now, gentlemen, it is time for us to part—for you to live out your lives in Hungary, for us in England—but which of us two for the better way is known only to the gods. Once more accept our thanks, our warmest, most heartfelt thanks. May we meet again, and next time may it be on English soil ! Whether this should be the fortunate case or not, accept our fervent prayer, ‘May the country of the three mountains and the four rivers, the land of fair women and free men, flourish and abound! *Floreat in æternum Hungaria !*’”

On this followed three humorous speeches. Mr. G. H. Radford, M.P., proposed the health of two members of the Club whose assiduity and energy had done so much to make the tour a success—Mr. R. C. Hawkin, the Club’s secretary, and Mr. Frank Newbolt ; and those who were present will not forget the brightness and humour of their replies.



ON THE CSERNA.
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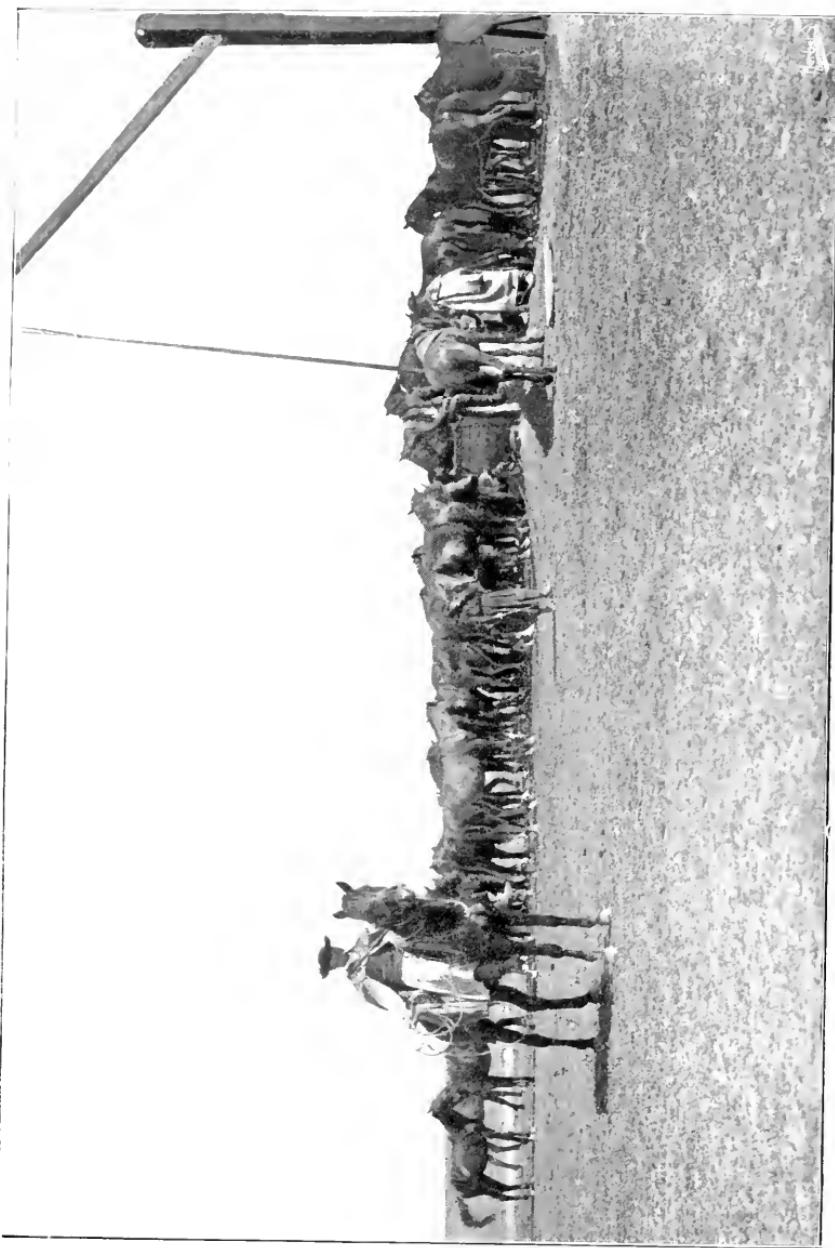
The Danube Excursion

At half-past nine the carriages were at the door to drive us down to the station of Hercules-fürdö, under a triumphal arch erected in our honour, and in the brilliant moonlight, in that still and quiet valley, with the lights of peasant dwellings twinkling below and the signal lamps on the heights shining in our honour above, we drove for half an hour along the Cserna vale, till we reached our train, where the sleeping berths were already made up for our reception. As we prepared for the night the train moved off on its return journey to Budapest.



CHAPTER XIV

MEZÖHEGYES—THE GREAT STATE FARM



MEZÖHEGYES STATE FARM: WATERING HORSES.

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CHAPTER XIV

MEZÖHEGYES—THE GREAT STATE FARM

HUNGARY has made great progress in art and manufactures of recent years, but her main industry is still cultivation of the land. The State has recognised the importance of the production of wealth from the soil for over a century, and has by direct education, by example and experiment in State farms, striven to raise the status of agriculture. In 1779 the first agricultural school was founded, a date which gives Hungary the place of pioneer in agricultural education. Her encouragement of horse-breeding has made her breeds celebrated all over the world, and an opportunity being offered to us to visit one of the immense stud farms, a large section of the party made the trip. This farm, Mezőhegyes, is about twenty miles from Szeged, in the centre of the vast

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plain of Central Hungary. The farm is ruled by a Commandant, Baron Podmaniczky, and extends over 42,000 acres. The Baron, and others of our indefatigable guides, accompanied us round the farm, a number of speedy pairs bearing us rapidly in carriages over the fields. Order and system reign. The one thing wanting is good road material, for the absence of stone makes metalled roads out of the question. We felt no inconvenience, for the weather was dry, and the carriages sped swiftly along broad, level, earthen paths, flanked by fine avenues of trees. All the buildings are lofty and well-designed, and a tramway of 2 ft. 3 in. gauge connects the main parts of the estate.

The work of the farm is in two sections, the more important being that of horse-breeding. Here sturdy half-bred English, Anglo-Norman, and Anglo-Arab stock are produced. The other farms at Kisbér, Bábolna and Fogaras are for English pure-bred, Arab pure-bred and half-bred, and Lipiza-bred horses respectively. We saw hundreds of horses in stables, stockyards, and grazing, or under exercise. About five hundred cavalry soldiers serve in this department for three years, and a great number of peasants act as riders, herdsmen, or stablemen. The



HORSES AT MEZÖHEGYES, WITH MOUNTED COWBOYS (CSIKÓS).

(p. 347)

Mezöhegyes

stables in which the mares are housed are not divided into stalls. There is a manger running the whole length of the building, and the animal is merely tied to a ring to eat its due measure of provender. As we passed from group to group we were shown with pride horses whose pedigree was enriched by English blood, introduced at intervals during last century, one line tracing back to Eclipse. An instance of the energy of the Commandant was seen in the recently organised department for the breeding of mules. Some three years ago it was determined to use for this purpose mares that could not be utilised in the usual way, owing to some defect, in eyesight for instance. Syrian donkey sires were obtained, and we saw fine handsome mules of fifteen or sixteen hands, of the most useful type for draught and military purposes.

In an immense pasture of over a hundred acres four bunches of young stallions—altogether about three hundred—were ridden round for our inspection, and a very pretty sight it was, as they displayed their paces in trot and gallop, in military order. Finally, we were taken to the sires in use at present, and one by one they were separately displayed, the Com-

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mandant producing for each a sugarplum in the form of a carrot. As these beauties passed before us we recognised what an effect this establishment must have on the horse-breeding of the country. The Government sends sires throughout all the horse-breeding districts. It also buys likely sires from private breeders and has a system whereby a rural commune can buy a sire for a very moderate price. Rich communes will buy one outright, but time is given to the poorer communes, who are allowed to pay by instalments over three years, and if the stallion should die in the course of that period the instalments paid go to the price of another. The cost of horse-breeding to the State is about 2,000,000 crowns ; and there are on this one farm about three thousand animals. While we were there some Japanese Commissioners were inspecting the stock, with a view to purchases for the Japanese army.

On the other section of the farm we saw immense breadths of various crops, and large herds of cattle, sheep and pigs. The most interesting were the great Hungarian draught cattle. They are of a creamy white colour with a look of the buffalo about them, a decided hump on the shoulder and tremendous pouch-



MOUNTED HERDSMEN, MEZŐHEGYES.

Mezöhegyes

like throats. The leader was a magnificent specimen—Attila, five years old, with long and rather erect horns, whose tips could not be far from four feet apart. No hedges or partitions of any kind bordered the road, and just on the other side were the cows and their little fawn-coloured calves of the same breed. During winter and summer they remain out in the open, and never have any trace of tuberculosis. Attendants, attired in picturesque sheepskin coats when we saw them, remain with them in the pastures. The breed has a tendency to die out. The breeding cows are not milked or worked, so breeding is expensive, and the Government is giving its attention to the introduction of breeds of greater all-round utility. Near the Hungarian cattle was a fine herd of cows of the well-known Simmenthal (Swiss) breed.

The milch stock are not put into little low byres, like some of those we unfortunately find too often in England, but into lofty, airy, cleanly buildings. One shippon, with a tramway up the centre, held 163, and we were immensely pleased with the arrangements and the appearance of the stock. There are five other such holding 750 cows, and soon there

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is to be accommodation for 1,000 head. Here the milk of each cow is continually tested for quality and quantity. There on the front of the stall is the card of its record—"the short and simple annals of the kine." How exquisitely sweet is the place! Not a disagreeable odour. The straw in the building is dry and sweet, and, really, one could have slept beside the sweet beasts with comfort. Old herdsmen often say that looking after cattle yields vitality and prolongs life, and one can quite understand it. The excrement is removed instantly, and we did not see a single sign of it. Not only that, but—a pattern to many English dairy farmers—the cattle are groomed every day, and the udders are washed, and the calves are groomed also. Each October the cattle are tested for tuberculosis, and if any animal reacts it is promptly sold for slaughter, and the meat is carefully inspected. The milk from Mezőhegyes is sold in a neighbouring large town and a profit of over 5 per. cent. is realised on the department.

Of sheep there are about 10,000 on the farm. They have a curious camel-like look about the neck, having a sort of double chin, and a thick fleecy ruff round the shoulders.

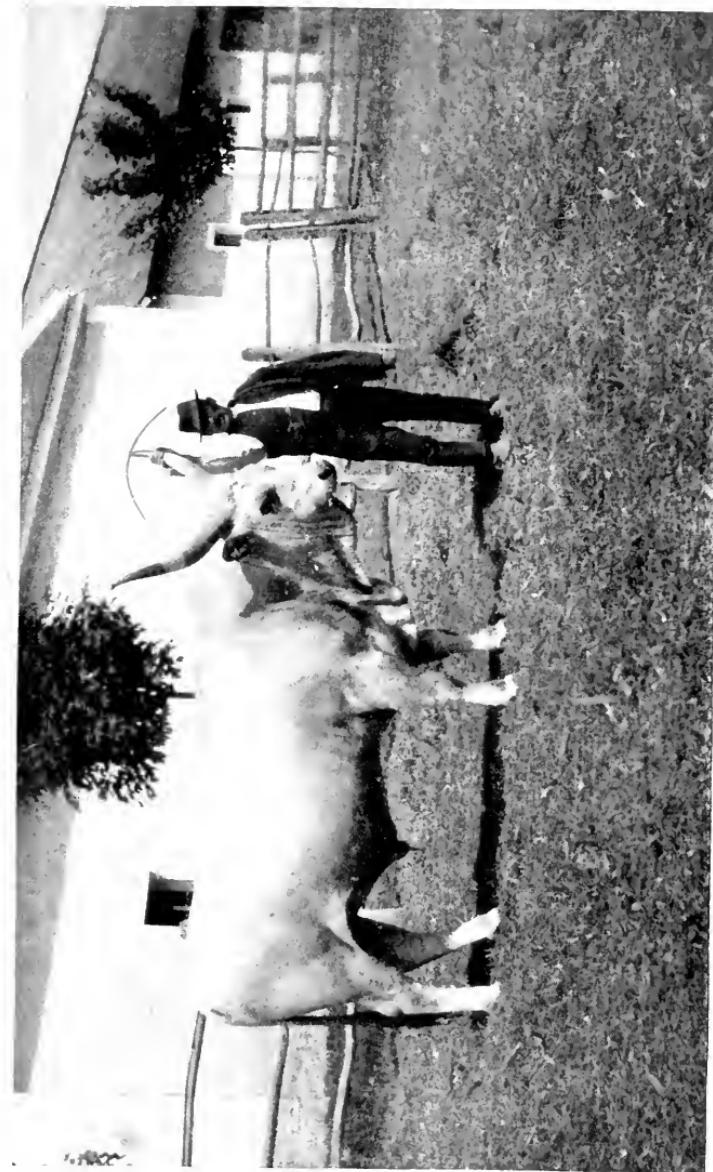


Photo by

[*Mrs. MacDonald.*

BULL OF HEAVY DRAUGHT BREED (HUNGARIAN CATTLE).

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Mezöhegyes

Pigs are also an important stock. They are of the Kondor breed, and bear the same relative appearance to a middle white English that a shaggy Highland Scot does to a silky short-horn. They have thick curly bristles, woolly backs and long heavy tails. A dozen years ago swine fever decimated the herds of Hungary, but they are now never troubled by disease at Mezöhegyes. They are kept out in the open entirely. With a view to improving the breed a former Minister of Agriculture some years ago bought 8,000 Yorkshires, but the experiment was not a success, as the flesh did not command so high a price in the market as that of native pigs.

After we had seen as much of the immense estate as we could in the time, we returned towards the station, and were taken to the hotel, which is part of the State property, for luncheon. Baron Podmaniczky occupied the chair, and several speeches were made. Our acknowledgments were expressed by Mr. A. Priestley, M.P., and the Hon. G. Howard, M.P. The latter said we saw here the result of a hundred years of agricultural progress. We had the best sheep, cattle, and horses in the world in England, but better use was made of our stock by the State in Hungary than at home.

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Before we left to resume our journey at Szeged, on the main line to Budapest, we had a further agreeable surprise. The Baron had arranged for a band of peasants to be in attendance. Our coffee was served in the garden, and there we saw a display of characteristic national dances. One or two sturdy old fellows, evidently of authority in the band, footed it as lightly as the youngest. A very few minutes however, brought the train's warning whistle, and amid cries of "*Eljen!*!" we left the pastoral scene.



A GREAT STACK AT MEZÖHEGYES.

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CHAPTER XV

THE ROYAL HUNGARIAN AGRICULTURAL
MUSEUM IN BUDAPEST



CHAPTER XV

THE ROYAL HUNGARIAN AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM IN BUDAPEST *

BY THE CURATOR

THIS comprehensive Museum was founded by the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Ignácz de Darányi, at the instigation of the Hungarian Agricultural Society, and is chiefly composed of the agricultural collections, maps, graphicons, models, &c., which were exhibited at the Hungarian Millennium Exhibition in 1896.

The aim of this Museum is to give a true insight into the present state of Hungary's agriculture as compared with that of other countries, besides instructing the Hungarian farmer how to grow and breed to obtain the best results, and the foreign buyer where to get the best products.

All the important objects having relation to

* Reprinted by permission from the *Journal of the Land Agents' Society*.

Hungary

the agricultural production and industries of Hungary will eventually be shown to the public, systematically arranged, and bearing explanatory inscriptions.

The Museum is divided into the following sections :—

1. Meteorology.
2. Agricultural Zoology.
3. Plant industry :
 - (1) Wheat.
 - (2) Other cereals.
 - (3) Root crops.
 - (4) Fodder plants.
 - (5) Industrial plants.
 - (6) Weeds.
 - (7) Plant diseases.
4. Gardening :
 - (1) Fruits.
 - (2) Vegetables.
 - (3) Formal gardens.
5. Viticulture.
6. Wine production.
7. Home industry.
8. Dairy.
9. Agricultural industries :
 - (1) Milling.
 - (2) Sugar.



THE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM BUILDING AT BUDAPEST.

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Agricultural Museum in Budapest

- (3) Alcohol.
- (4) Starch.
- (5) Vegetable oils.
- (6) Flax and hemp.
- 10. Agricultural implements.
- 11. Agricultural buildings.
- 12. Schools and experiment farms.
- 13. Useful and injurious animals.
- 14. Animal breeding :
 - (1) Horses.
 - (2) Cattle.
 - (3) Sheep.
 - (4) Hogs.
 - (5) Poultry.
- 15. Bee culture.
- 16. Silkworm breeding.
- 17. Hydraulics.
- 18. Agricultural statistics.
- 19. History of agriculture.
- 20. Forestry.
- 21. Fishing and fish breeding.
- 22. Game :
 - (1) Beasts and birds of prey.
 - (2) Big game.
 - (3) History of hunting.
 - (4) Hunting implements.

Just to give an idea of the organisation of

Hungary

the Museum, let us see the subsection of pomology in the gardening section.

Here the visitor will find all the different kinds of fruit grown in Hungary in most natural casts, all systematically arranged and with full explanatory text.

Most of the models, maps, diagrams, graphicons, &c., are made in the workrooms of the Museum. Here will be found also the exact reproductions of the flowers and leaves of the different fruit-trees, the injurious insects of the fruit-trees and shrubs in their development. Good maps show the distribution of the different varieties of fruits; graphicons the export and import of fruits from and to Hungary, &c.; packages show how the fruits are packed for transportation both by ship and railroad, the different kinds of conservation both in tin and glass, the seeds of the different fruits, &c.

And so in all the other sections.

With the first organisation of the Museum in 1897 the writer was commissioned to arrange the large and valuable collections, objects, models, &c., after a well-planned system of his own, in the three romantic buildings of the historic group on the Széchenyi Island in the Varosliget, a beautiful park of Budapest.



HUNGARIAN PEASANT (BÉKÉS DISTRICT).

(p. 369)



Agricultural Museum in Budapest

The collections remained there till 1899, in which year the temporary buildings were demolished in order to be rebuilt again of stone and marble at a cost of about two and a half million crowns.

In 1904 the new and beautiful buildings were ready, and the final arrangement of its collections began, under the supervision of Councillor Francis de Saárossy Kapeller, with the co-operation of the writer.

The scientific and systematic arrangement of the Museum is now nearly completed, and very probably it will be open to the public in the autumn of 1907.

The agricultural sections are in the spacious and bright halls of the Renaissance building, the forestry, fishing, and game in the Gothic castle of Vajda Hunyad. In the Roman building, which was begun to be built only this autumn, will be placed the library, the laboratories, the auditorium, &c.

The three beautiful buildings are exact reproductions of old castles and other existing buildings in Hungary, and are built by the famous Hungarian architect, Mr. Alpár.

When the Museum is finally completed and open to the public it will be an up-to-date,

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living, and useful institution, not only for the Hungarian farmer, but to all who are interested in the production, buying and selling of the fine products of the Hungarian soil.

As is well known, Hungary's chief agricultural products are wheat and wheat-flour, horses, wine (the famous Tokay, Magyarád, &c.), Indian corn, barley, cattle, hogs, eggs, wool, all kind of timber, especially oak staves, beet sugar, poultry, tobacco, beans, lentils, rice, apricots, plums, apples, grapes, melons, peaches, cherries, &c., &c., all of first quality.

Hungary as an agricultural country has felt for a long time the need of such an institution, in which her two most important "industries," namely, agriculture and forestry, are given their right place among the other industries of the country.

His Excellency Mr. Ignácz de Darányi, Minister of Agriculture, deserves the heartiest congratulations and gratitude of his countrymen for having created this most interesting and modern institution.



HUNGARIAN PEASANT WOMAN (BÉKÉS DISTRICT).
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CHAPTER XVI

THE RETURN: SZEGED, FIUME,
VIENNA, ETC.

CHAPTER XVI

THE RETURN: SZEGED, FIUME, VIENNA, ETC.

THE conclusion of the official programme of the Eighty Club's visit to Hungary was reached when the day on the Danube closed at Hercules-fürdö. The final formal words of thanks were spoken that evening at dinner. But we were, in fact, entertained for some time afterwards, and though our party had separated, and journeyed by different routes, yet much was seen and done that deserves to be recorded.

SZEGED.

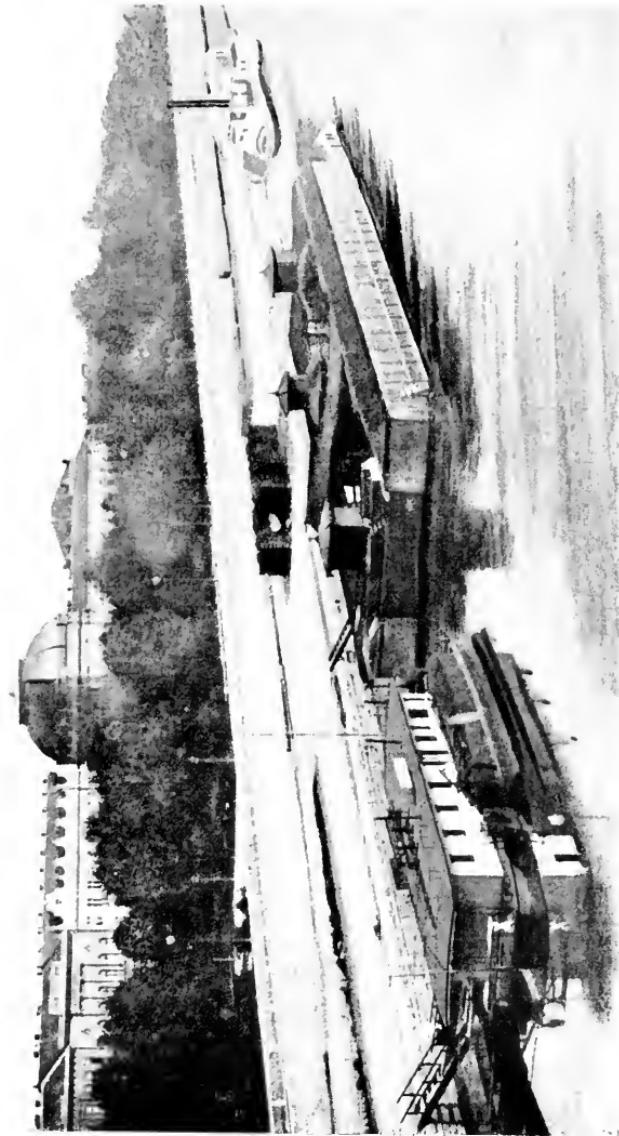
On their journey from the Danube excursion some of us stopped to see the town of Szeged, and spent September 30th in that place.

Szeged is the second largest town in Hungary, with over one hundred thousand inhabitants.

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It lies on the River Tisza (Theiss), and in 1879 was partly destroyed by a flood, and is rebuilt in modern style with fine streets and public buildings.

Dr. Charles Becsey, who represents Szeged in the Hungarian Parliament, together with a party of the leading citizens, welcomed us at the station and escorted us in carriages to the fine old Franciscan Church, and thence to the "Palace of Culture." Here the Director received us with great courtesy, and explained the chief points of interest. Next we drove over the new bridge across the River Tisza to the Public Gardens at New Szeged. Here we had the good fortune to meet the President of the Hungarian House of Commons. Dr. Becsey entertained us at lunch, and the party included Dr. Henry Gáal, Dr. Sigismond Fülöp, and other prominent townsmen. Dr. Becsey, speaking in Hungarian, proposed a toast in our honour in extremely cordial terms, and other toasts were heartily given in honour of England and our ladies. To these Mr. Henry Walker, M.P., and Mr. Bramall responded. Mr. R. C. Hawkin, speaking in French, proposed the toast of the city of Szeged, congratulating the citizens on the splendid progress they had



SZEGED : THE TISZA (THEISS) EMBANKMENT.

The Return

made since the disastrous flood in 1879. In the afternoon a visit was paid to a children's play at the theatre, where a most entertaining fairy-tale drama was performed.

Later on Dr. Becsey introduced us to a meeting of his constituents, where we felt profoundly touched by the warmth of our reception.

A few special words about this meeting may not be out of place, for it was the only one of its kind we witnessed in Hungary, and it was naturally a most interesting experience. It was held at a People's Club which adjoined a restaurant. The room was not large, but was crowded to its utmost capacity. There were tradesmen and working-men, just as would be found at a political meeting in England. Most of those present were drinking a very good light wine, produce of the plain of Hungary. On the walls hung pictures of Louis and Francis Kossuth.

The entrance of the Deputy, Dr. Becsey, was the signal for a great ovation, and he at once addressed the meeting in a speech which we could almost think we understood as we watched its effect on the audience. Szeged is the heart of Hungary, and here the tradition

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of Gladstone's support of Louis Kossuth is well understood and appreciated. After Dr. Becsey in his speech had welcomed the Eighty Club visitors, Captain Fletcher-Vane responded, and asked permission to drink to the health of Hungary out of a "Kossuth loving-cup" which stood on the table. This request was granted amid a scene of great enthusiasm, the meeting singing the Hungarian national hymn. We replied with "For they are jolly good fellows."

Then Mr. Hawkin spoke to the meeting, his speech, in German, being translated sentence by sentence by a Hungarian barrister. We shook hands with the whole party, and left amid cries of "*Au revoir*" in Hungarian. Tea followed at the Hotel Tisza, and Dr. Becsey was again our host at supper.

Formal calls were paid to the Mayor next morning at the fine Town Hall, and the party left with a deep impression of the friendly feeling and goodwill with which the countrymen of Gladstone are regarded by the dwellers in the plains of Hungary.



SZEGED: MONUMENT TO LOUIS KOSSUTH.

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The Return

FIUME.

Certain members of the Eighty Club, seeking rest and change after the exciting strain of Budapest, arranged to return home through Italy. This was easily managed by taking the train to Fiume, the port of Hungary on the Adriatic ; the first-class passes over the State railways (of Hungary) given to us for the period of our visit secured comfortable travelling and every possible attention from the railway officials ; from Fiume good steamers transport the traveller to Venice in a night passage.

The thoughtful hospitality which awaited and attended the Eighty Club all through Hungary did not fail at Fiume. Some members arrived on October 3rd, leaving two days later. During their short stay they were treated with the greatest kindness by Count Alexander Nákó, the Governor of Fiume and of the Hungaro-Croatian coast. Count Nákó, like the Bán of Croatia, has a seat in the Upper House (of Magnates) by virtue of his office. He placed his electric launch, his steam yacht, and his motor-car at the disposal of our members, and thus enabled them to enjoy to the full the beauties of the

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Adriatic coast. Their visits to the charming modern watering-place of Abbazia and to the ancient and historic town of Bukari will be long remembered. He entertained them at the Palace, and in frank and friendly conversation answered their inquiries about current Hungarian politics, and received from them in return information which he was anxious to obtain about political and financial policy in England.

COUNT APPONYI'S FAREWELL DINNER.

Count Apponyi invited as many of the deputation as yet lingered in Budapest on Monday, October 1st, to meet him at a private dinner that evening. Several of our host's political friends also were present. The freedom of discussion which took place at the dinner table and as we sat and smoked afterwards had been made possible by the experiences and intercourse of the previous days. Those who were present at this gathering and saw our host's readiness to meet all our questions felt that that evening was one of the most delightful and informing of our Hungarian experiences.



COUNT ALEXANDER NÁKÓ.

(Governor of Fiume.)

The Return

VIENNA.

The direct and natural route from Budapest to England passes through Vienna, and a suggestion had been made that the members of the Eighty Club Deputation should pay a visit to the Austrian capital as they returned home. Several difficulties, however, stood in the way of making arrangements for this purpose. Many members were either prolonging their stay in Hungary or were unable to find time to pause in Vienna, and others were intending to return by other routes: from the outset, therefore, only a section of the party could accept the Vienna invitation. But, in spite of the tendency in certain quarters to intensify and accentuate any differences between the Austrian and Hungarian points of view, our hosts, and in particular Mr. Kossuth and Count Apponyi, expressed, immediately they heard of the suggestion, their strong wish that, if possible, the kindly offer of an official reception to our deputation in Vienna should be accepted.

Those able to enjoy the hospitality most generously and gracefully offered to us in Vienna will remember the three days spent there with much gratitude.

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Count von Kielmansegg, the Governor (Statthalter) of Lower Austria, arranged for visits to the Reichstag, which was seen during a sitting when some interesting interpellations were directed to Ministers. Visits were also paid to the Imperial stables, to the Hofburg (Palace), the Imperial Library, and the beautiful suburban Palace of Schönbrunn. Boxes at various theatres and operas were placed at our disposal for two evenings, and Count von Straaten and other gentlemen in the Department of the Governor acted as companions and guides.

On the evening of Tuesday, October 2nd, Count and Countess von Kielmansegg gave a special reception in our honour at their official residence, the Statthalterei, in the Herrengasse. This was brilliantly attended, and furnished a proof, if one was needed, that the Eighty Club was made welcome in the most cordial manner in Vienna as well as in Budapest.

OFFICIAL THANKS.

As we turned our faces homeward the feeling of gratitude to our Hungarian hosts for their geniality and generosity which we had received

The Return

throughout the period of our visit was uppermost in our minds. The thanks of our party were expressed in a telegram which Mr. Norman addressed to Mr. Kossuth from the frontier, and in an official letter of thanks written to him by Mr. Hawkin on behalf of the Eighty Club.

CHAPTER XVII

THE CASE FOR HUNGARY



CHAPTER XVII

THE CASE FOR HUNGARY

THOUGH the visit of the Eighty Club Deputation to Hungary was made apart from any desire or intention to complicate the issues between the two great portions of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, and though the attitude of the deputation was in all points perfectly correct, evidence of which may be found in the extreme cordiality of the official reception given to those members of the deputation who returned through Vienna, yet the case for Hungary in those issues still burning between Austria and the Magyar kingdom was naturally the subject of conversation on many occasions. We had exceptional facilities for hearing from leading men their views on the outstanding difficulties between Hungary and Austria. The case for Hungary has been stated recently in eloquent

Hungary

English by Count Albert Apponyi in his paper read at St. Louis in 1904, published in London (1904), "The Juridical Nature of the Relations between Austria and Hungary," and more recently in his articles in the *Outlook*, March 17 and 31, and April 14, 1906. Another recent work in English is Mr. A. B. Yolland's "The Hungarian Diet of 1905" (Budapest, 1905). As summing up the lines of argument of the national Hungarian claim, the following article from the *Speaker* of October 27, 1906, written by a member of the deputation, is here reproduced; it may be found useful as it presents a point of view which, whether right or wrong, must be seriously considered:—

The Eighty Club, of course, takes no part in the present dispute between the two halves of the Dual Monarchy, but a slight sketch of the Hungarian case by a member of the Club's deputation may be interesting. It has long been a grievance in Budapest that England receives Hungarian news through Austrian channels; the *Times* correspondent, for instance, lives in Vienna, and naturally sees events through "Viennese spectacles," so much so, indeed, that the Hungarian Government recently issued an official communiqué, to complain of "the *Times*,

The Case for Hungary

which, in regard to Hungarian affairs, has often taken an anti-Magyar and unjust standpoint.” *

* * * *

A surprising amount of ignorance seems to prevail as to the legal relations between the two countries. One must remember first of all, as Fÿffe says,† “that Hungary has for centuries possessed and maintained its rights ; that, with the single exception of the English, no nation in Europe has equalled the Magyars in the stubborn and unwearied defence of constitutional law.” Hungary, in short, forms no part of the Austrian Empire. It is, and always has been in law an independent kingdom, with an elective kingship until the end of the seventeenth century, and with a constitution as old as our own. This fact must be understood before any further step can be taken. Francis Joseph combines the two offices, but it is only as Apostolicus Rex, and not as Imperator, that he reigns in Hungary. The Habsburg dynasty was called to the throne in 1526, after the disastrous battle of Mohács ; and Ferdinand, a brother of Charles V., was elected King of Hungary in the

* The London *Tribune* has now a special correspondent at Budapest.

† “History of Modern Europe,” p. 83.

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hope that his family would assist in the war against the Turks.

One of the most felt, though the least serious, grievances is the King's unwillingness to reside in Hungary. "We have built him a new palace (on a splendid site which looks down on Pest, across the Danube), and he only comes to it for three days in the year," they say in Budapest; and a Deputy who talked to me near the south-eastern frontier complained that "Roumania with 6,000,000 has a national King, Servia with 2,500,000 has a national King, why should not we with 19,000,000 have one too?" It is also thought that Francis Joseph has very little interest in Hungary, and he certainly does not go out of his way to acquire popularity in his kingdom. Diplomacy and foreign affairs furnish a second grievance. Theoretically, the Foreign Ministers and the Ambassadors represent each country equally; in practice they are believed to hold Austrian views, and Count Goluchowski was regarded as specially anti-Hungarian.

A third and more serious grievance is provided by the army and language question. In the Hungarian army only the German language and Austrian flag are used. Thus, as Count Apponyi would say, during the most impressionable years

The Case for Hungary

of a young Hungarian's life, when he is most subject to discipline, the language of command and the symbol of his military devotion are not those of his own country. So the army, which ought to be a school of patriotism, becomes an engine for destroying it. We must remember also that conscription, to quote Fyffe again, was originally enforced "not for the ends of military service, but as the surest means of breaking the national spirit."

One may regret the want of harmony between the two nations, and one need not believe all that the spokesmen of either nation say of the other. After all, it is only natural that the Magyars should show little affection towards Austria. They cannot forget that the Emperor summoned Russian troops in 1849 to put down Kossuth and that concessions have only been wrung from Austria in her times of weakness. It was Sadowa which restored the Hungarian constitution in 1867. Austria, indeed, has made long strides towards Liberalism in the last generation, but the memories of past oppression, as we may learn from Ireland, take many years to fade.

The *Times* and other Conservative papers found fault with our visit because the Indepen-

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dents were not Liberals ; and a Budapest Social Democratic newspaper explained that they were anti-Labour. We were well aware that Hungary, which dates its modern period of constitutional government from 1867, while ours dates from 1832, has not advanced so far in thirty-nine years as we have in seventy-four. We knew also that the Magyars, as distinct from the Magyar-speaking population, did not form a majority of the whole nation, although they always have been the ruling race, but their percentage is larger than that of the Germans in Austria. If Mr. Kossuth's paper at the Conference can be taken as representing the party's views, they are certainly not anti-Labour, although we learnt with regret that no Labour member had a seat in Parliament. It is true also that the franchise is restricted, but the simple Hungarians seem not to have discovered the secrets of plural voting and University representation. The Independent Party, too, is largely an aristocratic party, but there is no evidence to prove that a more democratic franchise would have caused any important change in the balance of parties.

It must be remembered, on the other hand, that the Magyar nobles, and especially the

The Case for Hungary

smaller landowners, have always displayed a fiercely patriotic spirit, and that they have been comparatively free from the faults which made the Polish aristocracy intolerable. Moreover, the responsibility for electoral and other anomalies rests upon the earlier administrations, who can hardly be supposed to have framed them on self-sacrificing lines. In fact, when the figures of the elections came to hand, people were absolutely astounded at so crushing a defeat for the Government. The non-Magyar races of Hungary, no doubt, do not obtain an adequate representation in Parliament, and probably suffer disabilities in the public services. In their great struggles two generations ago the dominant race lost much from its inability to gain the help of the minor races, and it may well be now that the Magyars would lose little in Hungary itself, and that they would gain greatly outside it, if they admitted the other races to partnership on the most generous terms.

The true claim of the Independent Party on the sympathy of Liberals is that they stand for the great idea of nationality, and that they have vindicated the right of the representatives of the people to control the government of their State.



CHAPTER XVIII

THE REAL MEANING OF THE VISIT

CHAPTER XVIII

THE REAL MEANING OF THE VISIT

LOOKING back on the visit one may fairly ask, What was its real significance? Was it more than a mere holiday jaunt with a spice of politics? Or was it merely another instance of *une entente cordiale* between friendly nations?

Certain persons may choose to view it as an amusing form of foreign travel. Others again are like opposition newspaper writers, who find in everything that a Liberal politician does the act of a knave or a fool. There are enemies who spoke of the Eighty Club's tour as a specimen of the self-advertisement of unimportant persons or the interference of meddling busybodies. It would be unnecessary to refer now, when all is over, to such biassed comments had not the visit excited the public interest which its originators hardly hoped to create. Certainly it happened at the "silly

Hungary

season" when papers are in need of news. But that cannot account for the success which those who undertook the journey felt had crowned the venture. It was really a new departure that Liberals in one country should invite representative Liberals from another country to come over and visit them. Any reader of the earlier part of this volume can see that the visit was admirably organised and the hospitality shown was extensive, cordial, and generous. Add to these facts that the Eighty Club sent its members still fresh from the sensational victory of the General Election, and that the Hungarians are a nation with a genius and a passion for politics. In these things lies the explanation of the success of the visit. The Press everywhere showed this by the attention they gave to it. The Secretary of the Eighty Club found on his return that the Press cuttings that had come in during his absence formed an enormous pile on his desk. French and German, Magyar and Czech, British and Continental newspapers, had not only chronicled day by day the doings and sayings of the deputation and their hosts, but had also interviewed its members and had printed leading articles on its importance.

The Real Meaning of the Visit

The visit of the Eighty Club meant that a number of members of Parliament and politicians of the rank and file went to a foreign country without prejudices to feed and with no cry to raise, and there made the acquaintance of men and facts on the spot. Our knowledge of foreign political questions is necessarily derived almost entirely from newspapers. Even well-travelled men, who may be good linguists, can seldom do more than gather views from the Press of different countries, and supplement these with the conversation of those they meet on their journey. Even if armed with introductions to consuls and diplomatists, they will seldom see the popular leaders who make opinion and fashion history. But the Eighty Club Deputation had the good fortune to enjoy for several days social intercourse with leaders of Hungarian life and politics. They constantly saw in the capital and on the excursions arranged for them both Hungarian Deputies and high officials. They met these men on terms which allowed unfettered interchange of opinion. None of those who were present at Count Apponyi's farewell dinner to the deputation at Budapest on October 1st and who joined the circle which after dinner plied

Hungary

His Excellency with questions about the Hungarian army and the attitude of the Magyars towards the other nationalities in Hungary, can fail to have been impressed with the feeling that at length they were at close quarters with questions which had been familiar but not vivid before. Or again, to take quite another set of problems, those who had any conversation with Mr. Imre Csik, the Director of Forestry in the great forest district of the Tátra, and who in his company walked through snow and woodland as he told the story of the timber and game, the labour of German and Slovak workmen in that forest domain, saw how the estates of the nation may be administered by enlightened officials. Or once more, when we visited Mezőhegyes, the famous horse-breeding farm, where the military organisation of the stud and the civil organisation of agricultural industry are worked side by side, we saw military order and discipline applied to arts of peace and production. In these and many similar experiences the friendly footing on which we stood with the Hungarian Deputies and others who accompanied us gave an additional value to everything we saw.

There are other aspects of our visit which

The Real Meaning of the Visit

must not be forgotten. Those of our deputation who were men of business and experienced in commerce found in the Department of Commerce, under Mr. Kossuth's charge, that the Government is seeking in many ways to develop the potential trade and manufactures of a country which has long been, and still is to a great extent purely agricultural in character. In Budapest the Museum of Commerce, shown to some of us by some of Mr. Kossuth's lieutenants, acts as an Information Bureau and a public agency office. Closely allied both to commerce and agriculture is the movement to instruct and organise the peasants in the use and extension of those village handicrafts which have been such a feature of rural life in the past, and which tend to decay and vanish under the conditions of cheap factory goods and modern distribution. The moral value of peasant arts and the economic value of many hand-made articles are not lost sight of. Like Mr. Plunket in Ireland, the pioneers of education and organisation are teaching the peasantry to add a new support to their existence.

From unexpected quarters, too, the deputation received interesting attention. The comic papers of Budapest found in our visit subjects for new

Hungary

jest for a couple of weeks, and travestied the English visitors with a freedom and a taste not quite like what *Punch* has taught us to regard as legitimate satire. Then there was the Socialist paper, *Népszava*, which came out on September 23rd with an entirely English edition of six pages. This issue gave us with many facts and figures a complete statement of the Socialists' case in Hungary. It appealed for our sympathy and support especially on the ground that in England greater economic freedom and fuller political equality and less of a gulf between rich and poor exist than in Hungary. One must recognise the ability and serious aim of those who brought out the *Népszava's* special edition, which was "presented to the members of the Eighty Club arrived at Budapest to study the Hungarian social politics." This paper gave extra point to the earnest programme of social reform which Mr. Kossuth unfolded in his paper at the Independent Club Conference.

Delicate international questions were no doubt mentioned in private conversation. But even in the most intimate talk no remarks were heard that could offend any but the unduly suspicious. Certainly in public nothing was

The Real Meaning of the Visit

said to which any, not even the most captious, could properly object. Of course, we are often told that the undercurrent of racial animosity is always and everywhere flowing, often still but always deep, throughout the lands of the Dual Monarchy. But we went as friends of all and the enemies of none, and nothing we did or said in Budapest made us anything but welcome in Austria. This was clear from the pressing attentions and generous hospitality we received in Vienna as some of us returned home through the Austrian capital. After all, it is good policy in social life and when dealing with neighbours to know their characters, to show your respect for as many as possible, to have quarrels with none and to cultivate all. In political relations and when dealing with nations the same rules hold good.

Finally, the memory of such days remains a possession and a joy. Hungarian hospitality, Magyar enthusiasm, and the companionship of true men made the days of the Eighty Club visit to Hungary memorable indeed.

APPENDIX

NATIONAL AIR

APPEAL—SZÓZAT.

By M. VÖRÖSMARTY.

O MAGYAR, by thy native land
With faithful heart abide!
Thy cradle first, thy grave at last,
It nurs'd thee, and shall hide.

For thee the spacious world affords
As home no other spot,
Here must thou live and here must die,
Be weal or woe thy lot.

Upon this soil thy fathers' blood
Flow'd to redeem thy claims,
Upon this soil ten centuries
Engrave immortal names.

Here struggled Árpád's gallant crew
To win our fatherland,
And here the yoke of slavery
Was snapt by Hunyad's hand.

Here freedom's banner, dyed with blood,
Shone proudly from afar,
Here fell the bravest of our brave
In long protracted war.

It cannot be that all in vain
Have countless tears been shed ;
Or vainly for the fatherland
Unnumbered hearts have bled.

O Magyar, for thy country play
A firm and faithful part ;
She gives thee strength, and if thou fall
She hides thee in her heart.

The spacious world doth offer thee
For home no other spot ;
Here must thou live, and here must die,
Be weal or woe thy lot.

Adante maestoso.

SZÓZAT — APPEAL.

Egressy Béni.

Adante maestoso.

SZÓZAT — APPEAL.

Egressy Béni.

1. Staff: Treble clef, 2/4 time, dynamic *f*. Measures 1-2.

2. Staff: Bass clef, 2/4 time, dynamic *dim*, *p*. Measures 3-4.

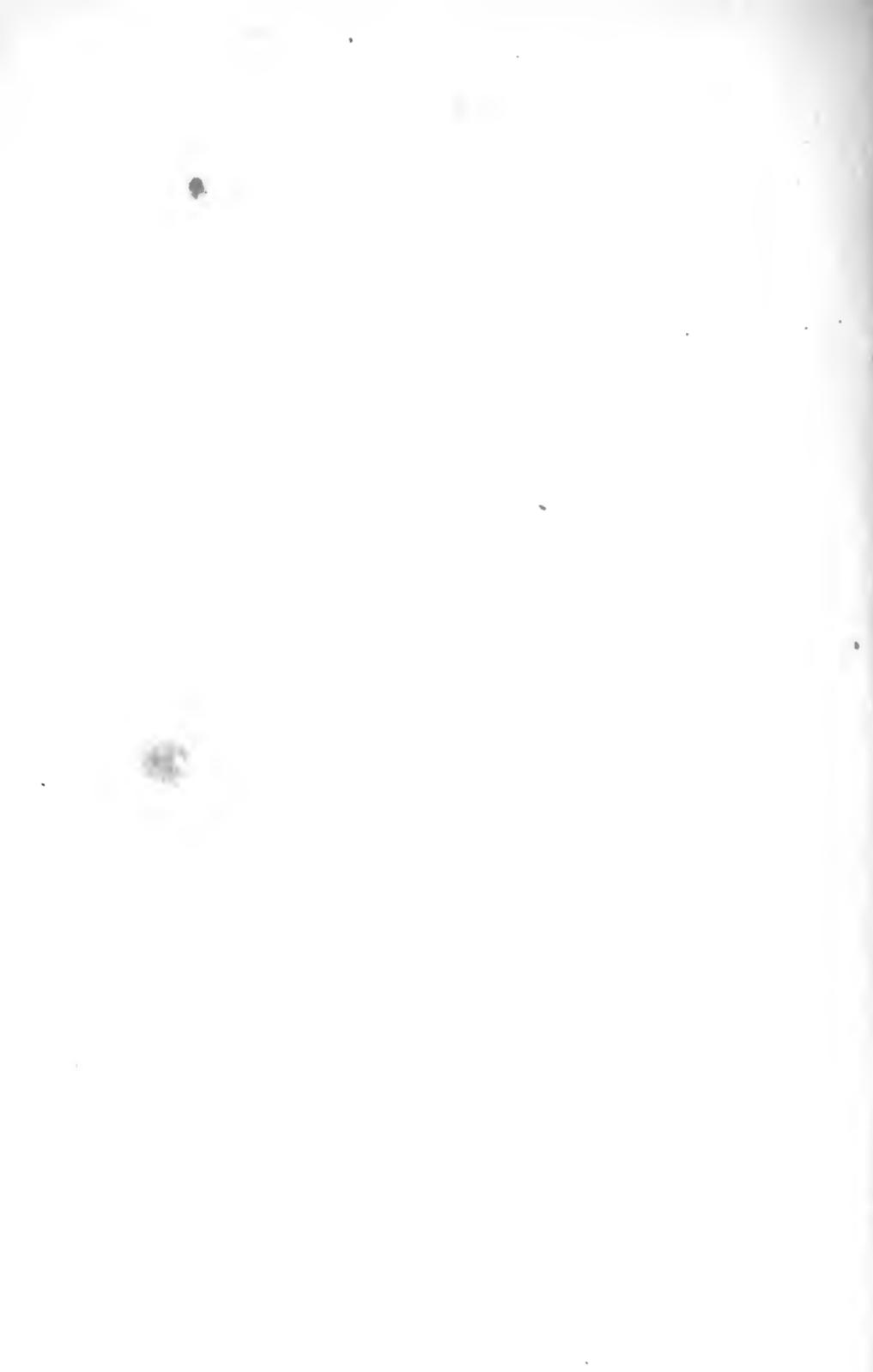
3. Staff: Treble clef, 2/4 time, dynamic *f*. Measures 5-6.

4. Staff: Bass clef, 2/4 time, dynamic *mf*, *trem*. Measures 7-8.

5. Staff: Treble clef, 2/4 time, dynamic *mf*, *cre-scendo*. Measures 9-10.

6. Staff: Bass clef, 2/4 time, dynamic *mf*, *cre-scendo*. Measures 11-12.

Rozsavölgyi & Ca. Budapest.



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